

# THE TIMES

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35P

## LYNNE TRUSS

Sees Robins chew up Magpies, PAGE 43  
PLUS: Brian Glanville on the Charltons PAGE 45

## WANNABE IN THE GANG

Spice Girls go beyond teen-pop PAGE 37

## FREE EUROSTAR TICKET

IT'S NOT TOO LATE  
START COLLECTING TODAY  
TOKEN: PAGE 26

PLUS:  
TO PARIS  
AN AWAYDAY  
OFFICE OUTING  
TO PARIS

Retreat to staffroom at the Ridings

# School shuts after assaults on teachers

By JOHN O'LEARY, PAUL WILKINSON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE troubled Ridings School in Halifax was closed down yesterday after a French mistress was sexually molested and two male teachers were assaulted by pupils. It was the second school to be shut this week because of unruly children.

The closure of the Ridings, where teachers have voted unanimously to strike unless 61 pupils are expelled, came 24 hours after inspectors had warned Gillian Shephard that the school was in danger of getting out of control.

The Education Secretary ordered the Calderdale education authority to deal with the problem immediately, and yesterday councillors decided at an emergency meeting to shut the school after the education director's chief adviser reported from the Ridings that there had been two or three incidents that suggested a risk to pupils and staff.

The school will not reopen until Wednesday when a new head teacher and deputy arrive. Manton Junior School in Worksop, where staff are refusing to teach a boy aged 10, also remained closed yesterday in spite of hopes of a compromise in that dispute.

At the Ridings, a 14-year-old boy fondled the breast of a supply teacher in front of his class; a girl aged 14 slammed a door in the face of a teacher, causing his second injury in three weeks; and another member of staff went home in distress after being pelted with books. A 15-year-old boy also had to go home with a cut head after a girl threw a video cassette at him.

Teachers retreated to the staffroom and refused to resume classes until action was taken against the assailants and a group of teenagers previously expelled from the school had been cleared from the playing fields. The police were called, but no arrests were made.

At 2.15pm, all 600 pupils



Typical! You put your son's name down from birth and then this happens

were called to assembly and given letters explaining why they were being sent home.

Ian Jennings, Calderdale's education director, said that the decision to close the school had been taken after he was advised that the health and safety of pupils was at risk. "The committee believes it has taken the necessary steps to prevent the breakdown of discipline at the school."

Mrs Shephard had demanded action from Mr Jennings after hearing a preliminary report from inspectors who were sent to the school after the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers called their strike ballot three weeks ago. That ballot was called after assaults on three members of staff, including Francis Coxon, an information technology teacher who was injured yesterday. On the previous occasion fireworks were thrown at him.

The inspectors advised the governors that there was an "immediate need to establish control in order to secure the physical safety of the children" and Mrs Shephard said last night: "I left the authority in no doubt that it is their responsibility to deal immed-

iately with these issues." The inspectors' final report will be presented to Mrs Shephard next week and if they declare it to be failing, the Ridings could be removed from local authority control and placed in the hands of a "hit squad" and even shut down altogether.

Yesterday Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the NASUWT who had declared himself shocked and shaken when he visited the Ridings, said that he was "staggered but not surprised" by the 24-hour delay before action was taken on the inspectors' advice. Discipline had deteriorated even during the emergency inspection that ended on Wednesday and yesterday's incidents had provided a vivid illustration of what teachers were facing.

Speaking at a London press conference called to announce the unanimous result of the strike ballot, Mr de Gruchy said that the local authority could still avert the action by indicating that an agreed number of pupils would be recommended to the governors for expulsion. The authority had accepted that a dozen pupils should be excluded, he said, but the union was examining dossiers on 61 children and officials would decide how many warranted action before the strike threat could be lifted.

Mr de Gruchy's members are already on strike at the Manton school, where governors will today put a compromised deal to parents in an attempt to end the stand-off that has led to the closure of the school. They will propose that arrangements to teach Matthew Wilson in isolation are reinstated, with the option of other children joining him. But Mr de Gruchy said that NASUWT members would not supervise the boy, even if his behaviour improved.

Valerie Grove, page 19  
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Mr Wran, chairman of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, was the only man to dance with the Princess. She tapped her feet to a performance by singer Sting and made a short speech to the 900 guests, who paid £50 each for tickets.

Praising the work of the institute, named after Australia's leading heart surgeon, she said it was re-

searching drugs and surgical approaches which could extend life expectancy.

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## Marcel Carne dies at 90

Marcel Carne, one of France's greatest directors who braved the Nazi occupation to make *The Children of Paradise* and *Les Visiteurs du Soir*, died yesterday in Paris, aged 90. Carne, who also directed *Hotel du Nord* and whose style became known as "poetic realism," took the camera out of the soundstage and into the street, touching the hearts of a nation.

Obituary, page 23

## Hillsborough police win appeal for trauma money

By STEWART TENDERLER AND FRANCES GIBB

FOUR police officers who suffered mental trauma after helping victims of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster won their renewed legal battle for compensation yesterday in a landmark judgment handed down by the Court of Appeal.

Last year a High Court judge ruled the four were not entitled to damages because they were not in the pens at the Sheffield football ground where 96 fans died. But the Court of Appeal, in a majority decision, ruled the four were exposed by the negligence of the South Yorkshire police to "excessively horrific events such as were likely to cause psychiatric illness" as they tended to injured and dying fans.

An appeal by a fifth officer, who was not at the football ground but dealt with bodies at a hospital mortuary, was dismissed.

The ruling paves the way for claims by other members of the emergency services and armed forces who experience

trauma and can prove negligence. The ruling widens the test on who can claim for post-traumatic stress and goes beyond guidelines laid down by the House of Lords when it ruled on claims brought by relatives of the Hillsborough victims.

The test set down by the law lords is based on "proximity". The lords said a successful claimant must have a close tie of love and affection to the person killed or injured, or be a rescuer, must be close to the accident in time and space, and perceive the accident through "unaided senses": that is, not on television or radio.

Now legal experts forecast the new judgment could lead to successful claims not only from rescue services but also from members of the public who help at a disaster scene.

But football fans who went to the help of the dying at the disaster would now be legally out of time to start a case.

Lawyers said last night the court had been opened for claims from up to 17 other South Yorkshire officers.

Continued on page 2, col 6

## Rushdie refused entry to Denmark

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SALMAN RUSHDIE has been refused permission to visit Denmark to receive a top European Union literature prize in Copenhagen.

In a curt, anonymous note, the Danish Government instructed him not to enter the country, which he has previously visited several times.

Last night he expressed outrage over his treatment.

Citing security fears as the reason, the note cancelled an invitation sent to him last

month, when he was told he had won the Aristote Prize for European Literature for *The Moor's Last Sigh*, his latest novel. Rushdie's life has been in danger since 1989, when the late Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran imposed a death sentence on him and everyone else involved in publishing The Satanic Verses.

The author was told of the Danish decision by the Foreign Office just a fortnight before he was to fly to Denmark. Last night he said: "It was rather mysterious — a typed text with no letterhead. They had not even shown the courtesy of signing the letter."

The note does express the hope that "there will be arranged another suitable kind of presentation of the Aristote Prize for Salman Rushdie".

"To hell with that," he said. "If I'm being treated in this way, I will refuse the award. I'm not receiving it in the backroom of a pub, in a plain brown envelope."

Continued on page 2, col 6



Rushdie: "to hell with getting the prize in a pub"

Leading article, page 21

# Blair winning political battle to gain moral high ground

By PETER RIDDELL AND PHILIP WEBSTER

LABOUR has taken a clear lead over the Conservatives in the new battle for the moral high ground in politics sparked by Frances Lawrence, wife of the murdered London headmaster, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*.

For the first time, too, law and order has soared to the top of the issues of most concern to British people.

The public believes that Labour is far more likely than the Tories to implement the proposals for tackling violence and promoting good citizenship put forward by Mrs Lawrence in her manifesto 11 days ago. Asked which party would be most likely to put her proposals into practice, Tony Blair's party had a two-to-one margin over the Tories.

The MORI survey had listed Mrs Lawrence's ideas for a ban on the sale of combat knives, lessons in school on good citizenship and raising the public standing of teachers and the police.

By a wider margin — 45 to 20 per cent — the public names Labour over the Tories alone. Some 8 per cent name the Liberal Democrats with the rest not opting for any party, or saying they do not know.

The results are deeply worrying for the Conservatives who have had an unhappy two weeks, constantly being wrongfooted by Labour on the law-and-order and education issues. But the finding coincides with a decision by Tory strategists, headed by Brian Mawhinney, party chairman, to concentrate the vast majority of their campaigning efforts on the economy, keeping off the morality agenda as far as possible.

Kenneth Clarke, who is being praised by the Tory Right as well as his usual allies on the Left for the way he

Continued on page 2, col 5

Peter Riddell, page 11  
Letters, page 21

from the MORI finding that people are growing more confident about the economy.

Mr Mawhinney, just back from a visit with Danny Finkelstein, head of Conservative research, to the final stages of the American presidential election, believes the Tories can take heart from the reasons behind what looks certain to be a Clinton victory.

He will have been re-elected as an incumbent President seeking a new term at a time when the optimism of Americans about their economic prospects is high. "We somehow have to mirror that," a strategist said. But

Continued on page 2, col 5

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# Don't quote me, I might have meant it

A problem for us Commons commentators is to know which MPs' utterances count. Take Kenneth Clarke on Wednesday: taunting Gordon Brown over Labour's "windfall tax", the Chancellor asked which industries would be targeted. G.S. he asked? Electricity? Scottish water or just English water? To protest, Mr Clarke spluttered: "They're all privatised."

Scottish water is not privatised. Amid the squeaks and howls, Mr Clarke said he did not mean Scottish water. So do we report a "gaffe" — or is his correction judged to have come in time? Mr Clarke was quick last year (though not as quick) to correct his compli-

ment to Consett's steel industry and nappy factory (both defunct), but the remarks were seized upon in time to become a media "fact". Wednesday's proto-gaffe never did, but you can hear it on the tapes.

Yesterday, Mr Clarke found himself tangled once more in the verbal thickets. Whether or not he means to give the Tory backbencher John Townend (Bradlington) the advice which follows, I heard him give it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said: "... and now the pound is strengthening, strongly. It is not — still — back at an acceptable level, because it is going back to where it was two years ago" [my italics].

Economically illiterate

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH



thinking man's yobbo ignored the question and tore into Labour, fists flying, on another matter. The Prime Minister adopted a different approach when asked about the remark being afflicted with a sudden deafness.

John Major went on to quote another remark an MP must wish had never been committed to print: Labour spokesman Nigel Griffiths last year described Scottish Nationalist proposals to reduce VAT on heating as "another cynical ploy from an increasingly opportunistic and desperate party". On Wednesday, Labour

front bench who developed hearing difficulties.

If we agreed an amnesty on writing things down, the Commons would be less stressful. I managed to note Mr Major's response to Elizabeth Peacock (C. Batley & Spen), who had asked him to congratulate innovators in industry in Yorkshire. "I'm certainly happy to congratulate successful innovators in Yorkshire," crooned the PM. Then, perhaps judging this too patently a contribution, added: "And undoubtedly many of them have been very successful."

Glibberish? Of course. Therein lies Mr Major's cunning. Nobody can take that down and use it in evidence against him.

All at once, it was Labour's

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Employment Service to shed 1,700 jobs

More than 1,700 jobs are to go in the Employment Service in cost-cutting plans disclosed yesterday by the Department for Education and Employment. The plans to axe jobs by the end of the decade will halve the present head-office staffing level and aim to save £70 million. A spokeswoman said the cuts were being implemented to make the service more focused and "business-orientated". David Blunkett, Shadow Employment Secretary, condemned the cuts as "brutally outrageous". He said they were so sweeping that they would disable the service.

### Growth hormone deaths

Donald Spear, 33, a motorcycle courier from Hemel Hempstead, died on Tuesday of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, caused by infected human growth hormone. Heather Causton, another victim of the same treatment, died yesterday. A 52-year-old woman has become the second person in France to die of the new form of CJD.

### New salmonella threat

A new form of salmonella food poisoning is rising sharply. The agent responsible is distinct from the one that infected eggs and chickens, and which is now in decline. The new threat comes from a form that is resistant to antibiotics. Dr John Cowden of the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health writes in the *British Medical Journal*.

### Nurse cleared of sabotage

A nurse was cleared of trying to harm a patient by sabotaging a machine at Basildon hospital in Essex. Nottinghamshire, Amanda Jenkinson, 37, was said to have stopped the flow of a sedative to Brenda Joyce, 61. She still faces two similar charges. A jury at Nottingham Crown Court will continue its deliberations today.

### Men can still behave badly

Marin Clunes and Neil Morrissey, right, were told they could carry on behaving badly in spite of complaints about their show. The Broadcasting Standards Council cleared *Men Behaving Badly* of being "gratuitous and unfunny". But the council said that the award-winning BBC1 comedy had "come very close to the limit of acceptability". Some viewers had complained that dream sequences in one episode were excessively violent and not funny. The BBC said it had broadcast a warning before the episode, saying it was "not for the faint-hearted".

### Rugby captain forgets date

Rob Wainright, the Scotland rugby captain, forgot to attend the launch in Edinburgh of a Scottish Poppy Appeal event, which has the message "Remember" on its posters. He went to the gym instead of presenting a framed poster to Nicola Yule, 13. An appeal spokesman said: "Rob telephoned to say he was sorry. It just slipped his mind."

### Five on book prize shortlist

The shortlist for the McVitie's Prize, for Scottish writers, was announced last night. It comprises: Alan Spence, *Stone Garden & Other Stories*; Shona MacKay, *The Orchard on Fire*; Andrew O'Hagan, *The Missing*; W.N. Herbert, *Cabaret McCannagh*; and Alan Tormaid Campbell, *Getting to Know Waitaki: An Amazonian Ethnography*.

### Rare dinosaur fossil found

A 2-in fossil exposed by storms near Brook Bay on the Isle of Wight is believed to be a 120-million-year-old broken claw from one of the rarest known flesh-eaters, the 3ft Baryonyx. The find was made by an amateur fossil hunter and has been shown to William Waller, who found the first baryonyx skeleton in 1983. Baryonyx, which means heavy-claw, took its name from its murderously large and hook-like thumb claws. Its head was more than 3ft long and it had very sharp teeth designed to grip. The only other baryonyx fossil, another claw, was found in the Niger Republic.

### Graduate donated organs

The family of Ian Tucker, 23, the Australian post-graduate at Oxford who died after a university rugby match last Saturday, donated seven of his organs for transplant. His college disclosed yesterday after a memorial service. Relatives, friends and students were among 350 mourners in the chapel at Keble College.

## Healey weighs into cautious Brown on tax and spending

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER



Healey: said he was misled by interviewer

LORD HEALEY, Labour's last Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday attacked Gordon Brown for the second time in 48 hours and criticised his caution on tax and spending.

He said that Labour should have the courage to raise taxes if it wanted a "decent health service". Later he tried to play down his comments, claiming he had been misled by the interviewer about Mr Brown's criticism of him.

Earlier this week Lord Healey, Chancellor from 1974 to 1979, made an outspoken attack on a European single currency, saying it would be a disaster for Britain and could lead to riots on the streets. His broadside against monetary union has stirred up arguments in the Shadow Cabinet over whether a future Labour government should join the first wave of monetary union. "If the thing goes ahead it will be a disaster," Lord Healey said in the Lords.

Yesterday afternoon Lord Healey appeared unrepentant when he went on BBC2's *Westminster with Nick Ross* programme, despite the Labour hierarchy making it clear it did not welcome disunity. Lord Healey said: "I think Gordon Brown has become a little too rigid in some respects and of course he has got no government experience whatsoever."

He added: "Mr Brown has become a little too cautious about spending commitments.

currency has not changed and will not change. We see the advantages in principle to the British economy. The decision, however, will be made at the time in what we consider to be the national interest."

Lord Healey was asked whether he thought Mr Brown's comments were a put down. He replied: "I look forward to the day when Gordon Brown can put me down."

Late last night Lord Healey published a letter of complaint to the BBC, claiming he had been misled.

He believed that it is not necessarily the end of the world if a party wanting power says it will raise taxes enough to have a decent health service and education service. I don't see how any government after the next election will get through without raising some taxes because we can't go on with this colossal deficit."

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, did his best to exploit Labour's embarrassment over the incident. He said: "We have been saying for months that Gordon Brown has the wrong answers to the key economic questions of the day. Now Denis Healey has revealed that Gordon Brown doesn't even understand the questions."

Cost of EMU, page 11  
Tim Congdon, page 20



Geoffrey Glave, one of the former constables who won his appeal, at his Derbyshire home yesterday

## Paper worker jailed for having knife

BY STEWART TENDERLE

A PRINT worker who uses a knife as a tool of his trade was jailed yesterday after police found three blades in his car.

The imprisonment of Dean Payne, 26, for two weeks is likely to add fresh heat to the debate over calls for a ban on some types of knives. Payne, from Notting Hill, west London, is the first defendant to be jailed under the new Offensive Weapons Act.

The Act, brought in last July, raised the penalties for carrying a knife in public without good reason to two years' imprisonment or an unlimited fine, or both. Last night Lady Olga Maitland, the architect of the Act, defended the court's action and said it would have been difficult to claim that two of the knives were for work. She

said: "He totally failed to convince the court that he was carrying them for a lawful purpose. I think popping him in prison for two weeks is more effective than giving him a heavy fine. He will remember the two weeks."

Marylebone Magistrates' Court was told that Payne worked as a part-time news-paper distribution worker and used a knife to cut bound bundles of newspapers. He admitted possessing the knives, but argued that he had acted carelessly without any criminal intent. He has a conviction for possessing a knife eight years ago.

David Kennett-Brown, the stipendiary magistrate, told him it was clear that at least one of the blades was used in his work, but there was no excuse for three knives and "there's little excuse for you to have had even a single knife."

Payne told the court that casual workers were not provided with knives, or lockers to store them in, and therefore had to carry their own tools: "You turn up with your knife on you, or you don't work." He said he was aware of the publicity about having knives in public, but had not realised that the interior of his car could count as a public place.

Continued from page 1 that Labour is so far ahead on the morality issue, which seems certain to dominate politics over the coming months, is a blow to the Conservatives.

There is no evidence before me that you were intending to use the knives for offensive purposes. Nevertheless, three knives were found in your possession in a public place and I consider that the only proper penalty is one depriving you of your liberty.

Payne told the court that casual workers were not provided with knives, or lockers to store them in, and therefore had to carry their own tools: "You turn up with your knife on you, or you don't work." He said he was aware of the publicity about having knives in public, but had not realised that the interior of his car could count as a public place.

The survey shows opinion divides clearly on party lines, though only 56 per cent of Tory supporters think their own party would be most likely to implement these proposals. The rest either think the opposition parties would be best or do not know. By contrast, nearly three-quarters of Labour supporters, including more than a half of those who have switched behind the party since 1992, believe it would be most likely to put the ideas into practice.

The latest MORI poll, undertaken over last weekend, also highlights increased, and record levels of, public con-

cern over law and order and education. Law and order is, for the first time, top of the public's list of most important issues facing Britain today, mentioned by 41 per cent, against 27 per cent a month ago. Close behind is education — at 39 per cent up from 32 per cent in late September.

By contrast for the first time since June 1991 unemployment is not top of the public's list of most important issues, having slipped to third thanks to a strong economy, rising living standards and falling unemployment.

Labour yesterday sought to capitalise on government difficulties by bringing forward a £1.2 million advertising campaign proclaiming "enough is enough".

Peter Riddell, page 11  
Letters, page 21

## Moral battlefield

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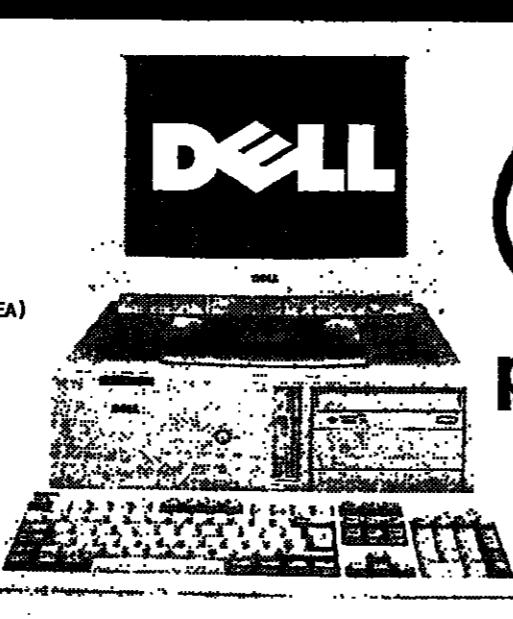
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من الأهم

# The man who thrashed Major says it did him good



Major: received one of the best

By DAMIEN WHITWORTH

THE teacher who caned John Major said yesterday that he could not understand the Prime Minister's opposition to corporal punishment because it had done him good.

Hubert Walker, 83, recalled that he had dealt a single swish of the cane to Mr Major and 23 of his classmates when they refused to complete a homework assignment at Rudlish school, Wimbledon, in the mid-1950s. "I think they learnt their lesson," he said last night.

He denied that the boys had been given six strokes and insisted that they had received only one each.

He added that, after the mass thrashing, the class of teenagers had behaved better. "I agree with corporal punishment," he said. "I think it should be brought back, not to be used willy-nilly, but rather via the headmaster in moderation."

Mr Walker came down firmly on the side of Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, who was rebuked by the Prime Minister on Tuesday for suggesting that state schools might reintroduce the cane, in defiance of agreed Cabinet policy. The former geography teacher said: "Some sanction is necessary. When I stood in front of a class of 30 boys, if two decided to be a nuisance and disrupt the class,

that was a waste of time for the other 28. I insisted on being firm. That was the whole basis of my career. They must be suppressed."

"At present there is no sanction. If people can murder a headteacher I'm afraid the whole country is going down the drain. In my day my wife and mother could go out and walk in the dark and now they

mentor was J.R. Blenkinsop, the cane-wielding headmaster at Rudlish, who terrorised generations of boys including John Major, and was nicknamed Champion the Wonder Horse because of the size of his teeth.

Mr Walker said that caning was more moderate than discipline had been in his own childhood. "My grandfather had a strap hanging beside the fireplace and he was prepared to use it if you stepped out of line."

The humiliation of Mr Major was the talk of the bar at the Old Rudlishians Association last night. One contemporary of the Prime Minister said: "We used to wear a beating as a badge of honour. Most of us were caught at least once.

John Major must have kept his head down if he only got caned once. It would have been much worse if old Blenkinsop had beaten him. He swished the cane much harder, as I can recall to my cost."

Mr Major's misery at Rudlish was such that he could not remember what the building looked like when he returned to the school in 1991 for a prizegiving. Peter Stokes, the chairman of the association, who was another contemporary, said: "I am not surprised he has forgotten all about the beating and the school. The school failed him. He got on in life after he left."

Education, page 38

## Murderer is awarded legal aid to sue MoD

By RICHARD FORD

A MURDERER is suing the Ministry of Defence from his prison cell, claiming £100,000 for alleged physical and sexual molestation while a serving teenage soldier.

Adam Fury, 21, is one of eight former soldiers demanding compensation for alleged beatings and sexual attacks while stationed at a Staffordshire barracks for small firearms training. Fury, from Swansea, was jailed for life this year for torturing to death Joanne Tregembo, a former girlfriend. He said from his cell: "I was totally messed up by the Army and I want people to know about it."

The family of Miss Tregembo said his claim for compensation was a "cruel irony" because it came only four months after he was sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court. Her parents said they were sickened by Fury's action, which is being funded by legal aid. Paul Tregembo said: "For an evil monster like Fury to look for sympathy because says he was bullied is beyond comprehension."

The trial was told that Fury lured Miss Tregembo to his house and in an attack lasting an hour, he beat her with a hammer and stabbed her in the head and body more than 30 times. Fury denied murder but was found guilty.

Fury joined the Army aged 17 and claims he suffered two months of abuse that ended when his kneecap was fractured after he was allegedly pushed over. Yesterday solicitors acting for Fury and seven others served High Court writs on the Ministry of Defence seeking compensation of £100,000 each.

Robert Peterson, solicitor for the men, said most of the allegations related to incidents at Whittington barracks near Lichfield, Staffordshire, when The Royal Welch Fusiliers and The Royal Regiment of Wales were based there.

On the way to a palace, the Queen visits the pride of a Thai village

## Moment of royal honour for one man and his pig

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN NORTHERN THAILAND

THE QUEEN and the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday paid a call on Mr Wang, inspected his onions and patted his pig. The pig grunted. It was the main reason for the visit.

Mr Wang keeps a smallholding in the village of Nanokkao, in a remote corner of Northern Thailand near the border with Laos. He lives there with his common-law wife Madam Sod, his four children aged from 12-24, and his mother-in-law, in a traditional Thai wooden house raised on stilts against vermin and floods.

He supplements his pig, scrawny chickens and vegetable patch with a job as a gardener. In the space beneath the house, Mr Wang's elder daughter Yaowaluk weaves lengths of fine Thai silk on a hand-operated loom. She cannot travel to work because of a recent car accident. They have electricity and water from a well, but no mains drainage. Mr Wang seems happy enough for his 42 years and, like the majority of Thais, is exquisitely polite.

When the Queen and the Duke arrived, the entire family squatted on rush mats and offered them a wat, the traditional Thai greeting of hands placed together before the face as if in supplication.

It is traditional, when greeting great persons or monks, not to get up. The Queen made Mr Wang rise and shook his hand. The rest of his family remained cross-legged, offering up three bolts of fine silk it had taken them a month to weave.



a Toyota van, looked cool and relaxed in pink despite the oppressive temperature and some slight misfortune on the journey, when the chauffeur switched on the vehicle's heating instead of its air conditioning.

Touring rural projects on the last full day of their state visit to Thailand, the Queen and Prince Philip looked particularly at ease, as though glad to be out of the frenzy of Bangkok.

Mr Wang remained faintly puzzled, although greatly

honoured, that a woman of whom he knew little should suddenly descend on his humble home from the other side of the world, accompanied by the Crown Prince of Thailand and two royal princes. "I have nothing to show them," he said.

But he did. He had a fine Chinese Meisan pig, nine months old and satisfactorily pregnant, given to him by a local rural development programme to supplement his income. Led by Mr Wang, The Queen and the Duke carefully picked their way through damp grass and scurrying poultry to inspect the beast. The Duke put his hand through the bars of its stockade and patted its quivering snout. The Queen kept a respectful 2ft distance. They asked Mr Wang about the pig and chickens. No, he did not keep the latter for eggs, he kept them to eat, or possibly to sell.

The Queen watched Mr Wang's daughter at work on her loom, waving her hands and asking animated questions through an interpreter. In the garden outside, a crowd of children squatted on the ground and held their hands in respectful *wai* for the duration of the royal social call.

Through an interpreter, Mr Wang told *The Times* that, a year ago, he had a dream in which he went to England, where a war was in progress, and met a Thai soldier who sent him to see the Queen, who would give him a son. This bizarre train of thought appeared to have



The Queen emerges from the pigpen as her hosts offer a traditional greeting

no significance until, five months ago, a British Embassy official came knocking at his door and asked him if he would mind opening his home to a visitor, as he seemed to embody the rural

and Queen Sirikit in their local northern palace, marking the end of a successful state visit. On their way to dinner, they stopped to admire a pair of elephants belonging to the King. The Duke could not resist getting out of the car to feed them bananas.

James Hodge, the British Ambassador who had barely two months to arrange the

## Family rallies round rape girl

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE mother of a schoolgirl raped by a gang in a 12-hour ordeal told yesterday how the attack had changed her daughter. "The whole family has got to come to terms with this because we have got a new daughter, our old daughter has gone," she said. "These men are animals. I can never ever forgive them. She is frightened to sleep and has been having nightmares."

The 15-year-old was snatched kicking and screaming from the Kings Heath High Street, Birmingham, on Friday by three men, as shoppers looked on, and then raped repeatedly.

"She's screaming and has the sweat and has become very panicky and clinging," said her mother, who lives in Birmingham. She said that her "bright and popular" girl wanted to become a midwife when she left school but now had been left with mental scars which she will bear for years.

"There is a gaping door in her mind and it will never be closed. She will have to come to terms with it."

"She is receiving counselling. She wants to get back to the way she was but she will never be like that again."

"She was an outgoing and popular person, and is now frightened for her life. I want to take the hurt away, but I can't take away her hurt."

She said her daughter wanted to remain anonymous: "She does not want people to know in case it gets out because she's frightened for her life."

The mother made an emotional appeal for the witnesses who ignored her daughter's plight to come forward. She said: "Somebody must have seen something even the smallest thing may prove useful."

"How could the public have let this happen? It must have appeared suspicious."

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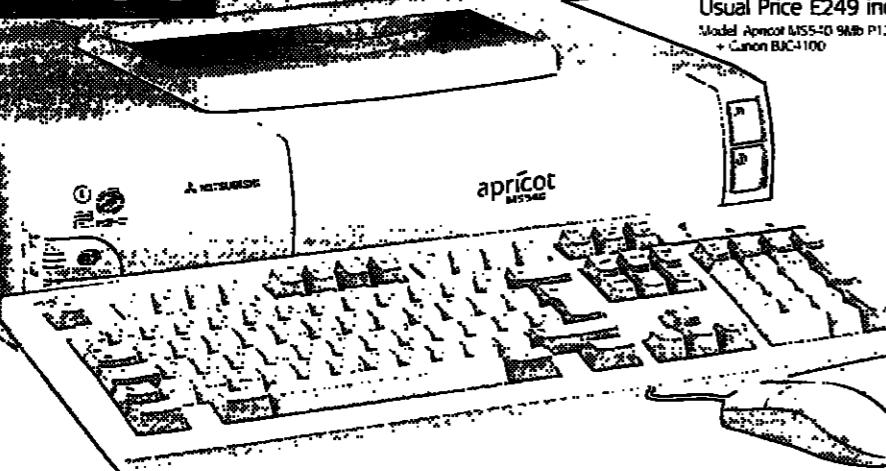
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OSI P. 10

## Payout for family who lost mother in 999 wait

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A FAMILY who say their mother died after waiting 75 minutes for an ambulance have been given £25,000 in an out-of-court settlement. The payment is made up of £25,000 from a doctor and £14,000 on behalf of the London Ambulance Service.

A court hearing had been scheduled to begin last week. Lawyers for relatives of Harnesh Mahal, 55, a mother of three, allege that it took 75 minutes for an ambulance to arrive at her home in Southall, west London. She had suffered a heart attack and died after a second one which happened as she waited for the ambulance.

Her relatives are pressing for an inquiry into an alleged disagreement between a doctor in their home and the ambulance crew which arrived to take Mrs Mahal to hospital. "One of the things we want investigated is what took place between the crew of the ambulance and a locum GP as my mother lay dying on the floor," said her son Manjot, 33, a trainee solicitor.

The family say that a control room tape which would have recorded exactly how long the ambulance took to reach her, was erased. It should have been kept for six months but was wiped after one month even though the family had given notice of legal action they allege.

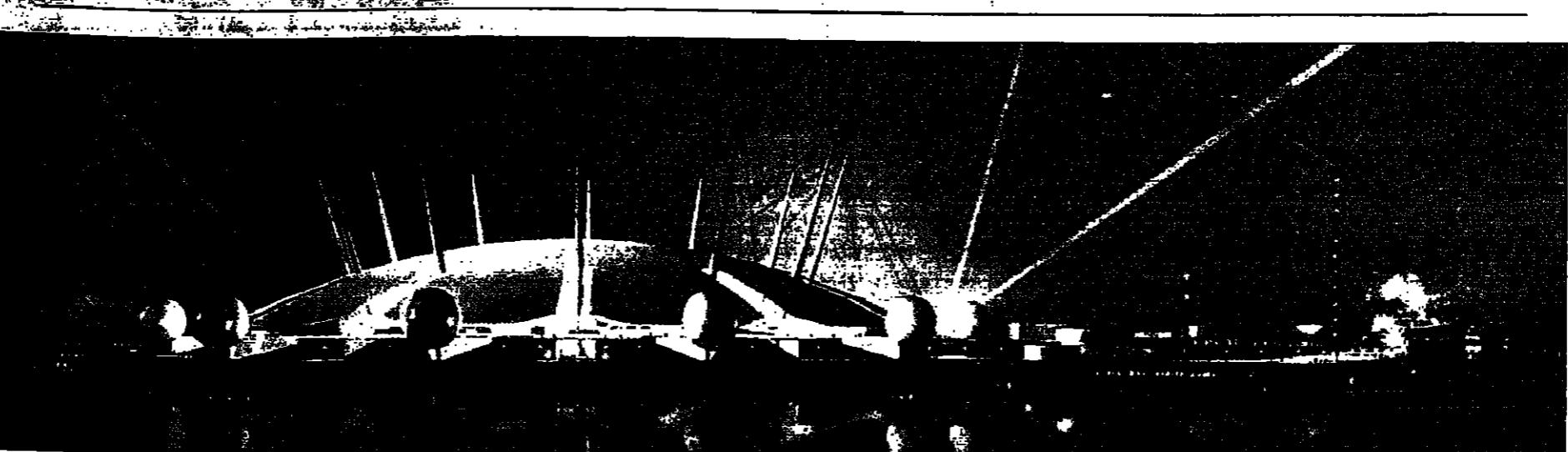
Mr Mahal said: "There was some doubt whether it would come to court because of the lack of information being provided by the LAS. They claim the ambulance took only 13 minutes although they have no evidence."

Mr Mahal believes his mother would have survived if the ambulance had arrived in time. "The second attack killed her because she suffered brain damage due to her heart stopping," he said.

"I made a series of calls to the London Ambulance Service but the delay was extraordinary and we think the London Ambulance Service should be held to account."

Mrs Mahal, who worked in an electronics factory, had been the main family earner since her husband, 58, who crushed his hand in a tractors accident six years ago, died.

## Cross between marquee and dome will transform derelict land at Greenwich



The fabric dome will be suspended from a ring of 100-metre-high masts. Views from the mezzanine platform should range from the Thames Barrier to the City

## Giant tent will cover millennium site

BY MARCUS BRINNEY

IT IS the biggest, best and brightest idea since Paxton raised the Crystal Palace. The centrepiece of the Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich is to be a "thundering great dome", large enough to enclose Trafor Square and all the surrounding buildings. Up to 50,000 people would be able to visit the exhibition under any one time.

The huge dome is to be situated at the point of Greenwich peninsula, looking out across the water on three sides. Inside, it would be more than 1,000ft across at its widest point and high enough to enclose Nelson's Column.

The structure, designed by Michael Davies of the Richard Rogers Partnership, is to be suspended from a ring of 12 100-metre-high masts projecting through the fabric roof. "It's like a marquee with the roof hung from very fine cables attached to the top of

the masts," Mr Davies said. "The dome will also be tensioned round the edge, like Gulliver when he was tied down by the Lilliputians."

The decision to contain most of the exhibition under a single roof was prompted by the site's exposed position on the river. The project engineer, Ian Liddell, said: "The dome is designed to resist the strongest hurricane-force winds. It will have a strength equivalent to, or greater than, a solid masonry structure. In high winds, there will be some movement in the fabric roof, but it will not be noticeable from the ground." It could be heated in winter or cooled with huge fans in the roof during the summer.

A 35-metre-wide mezzanine platform would surround the dome, linking restaurants, bars and cafés looking over the river and into the exhibition hall. Views would take in

the Thames Barrier to the east and the City to the west.

Yesterday the plans for the dome and the entire 130-acre Millennium Park were submitted to Greenwich Borough Council for planning permission.

As the dome would be a temporary structure, it is hoped that a lengthy public inquiry can be avoided.

Despite the rumours of recent months, finance for the exhibition is now in place. The Millennium Commission is giving a £200 million grant. The project would be undertaken by a public sector company which would have to raise at least £150 million in sponsorship, some of which is already committed.

The project would, however, be underwritten by the Government, through the National Lottery, although details have still to be worked out. With forecast revenues of £150 million for the year-long

exhibition, the minimum total budget would be £500 million. If the exhibition were to open for a second year, it might even make a profit.

Mr Davies said: "The dome will be a very cost-effective way of covering a large space. Our target is a structure

costing no more than the average DIY centre. Anything cheaper would mean a series of marquees."

The centrepiece of the domed interior is to be a 15,000-seat open arena, available for a continuous series of concerts, shows and religious

services. Around the arena, but still under the dome, would be a series of 12 pavilions devoted to different aspects of time.

The dome is to be of white fabric, translucent but not transparent, and would glow at night. Though intended as a landmark, it would not dominate east London like the tower at Canary Wharf.

There would be two river entrances, and most visitors would be expected to arrive on the new Jubilee Underground extension. The station serving the site has been designed by Sir Norman Foster and would be only 14 minutes from central London. There should be parking for 500 coaches, but the organisers intend to limit access by car.

There have been widespread concerns about contamination from the gasworks site on which the exhibition will be built. The site would be capped with concrete, sealing in any pollutants.

### Hewitt in court

James Hewitt, 38, the former lover of the Princess of Wales, pleaded not guilty at Okehampton to a drink-driving charge and to driving a Range Rover without a test certificate on the A30 at Whiddon Down, Devon. The case was adjourned.

### Demolition order

Four families will have their homes demolished to create a new entrance to a housing estate in Swansea. The city council took the decision after the owner of the present access road threatened residents with legal action if they continued to use it.

### First novel at 9

A novel by a nine-year-old schoolboy, written when he was seven, is published today by Populace Press. Oliver Hughes, of Ramsbury School, Wiltshire, wrote *Imagine*, an adventure involving man-eating yetis, for a class project about Nepal.

### £250,000 raid

A widow aged 70 suffered shock and bruising when two masked intruders locked her in a bedroom cupboard before escaping with jewellery worth £250,000 from her flat in Poole, Dorset. She later kicked her way out and called the police.

### Time flies home

A Wiltshire student who lost his wristwatch while dancing in a Jersey nightclub found it two months later when he asked a stranger the time in Basinsko. The girl had also been to the nightclub on holiday and found the watch engraved "Nick Coombes".

## Building for the future owes much to designs of the past

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE vast construction designed to house the Millennium Exhibition draws on two ancient structural traditions: the dome and the tent. By combining these two traditions the dome's architects have been able to exploit both sentiment and sound building practice. The dome is the strongest shape available, while the tent enables a huge area to be covered at low cost and without great difficulties of construction.

Tents were first used by nomads in 8,000 BC. They were reinvented as a serious form of building by the German

architect Frei Otto, who designed the German pavilion at the Montreal Expo in 1967 and the elegant Olympic Stadium in Munich, which covered 18 acres and was supported by nine masts, each 260ft high, from which hung a network of cables.

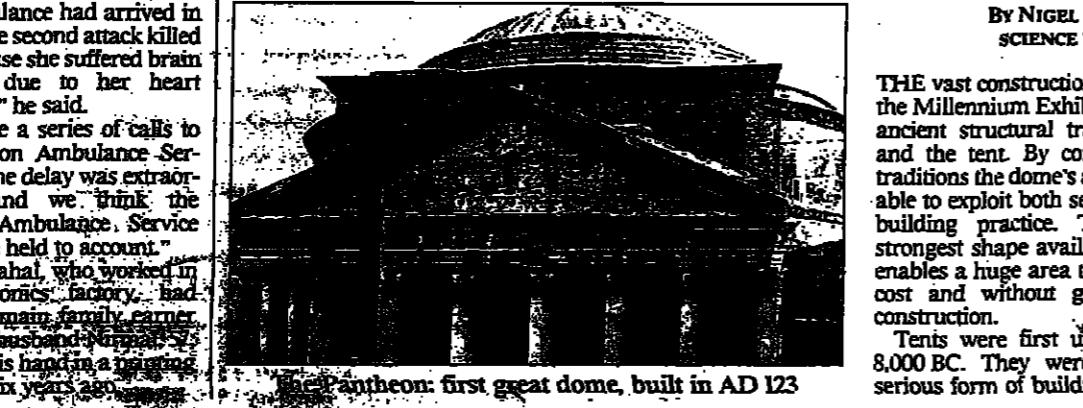
The Millennium Dome will cover about 19.5 acres. It has been called the largest domed structure in the world, but this gives a slightly false impression. Treated as a tent, it will not be the biggest: a much bigger one covering 105 acres has been built in Jeddah to shelter pilgrims to holy Muslim sites.

As a dome, it is stupendously large, but it is unfair to compare a staved structure suspended from masts with a freestanding building such as the

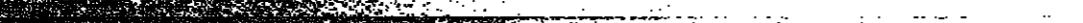
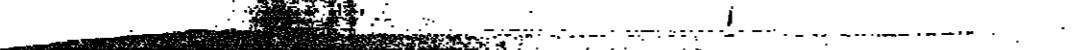
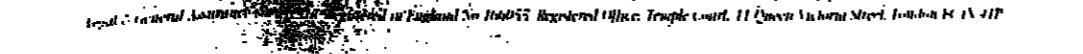
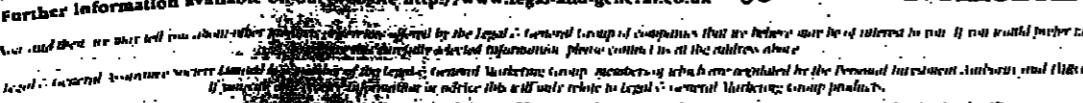
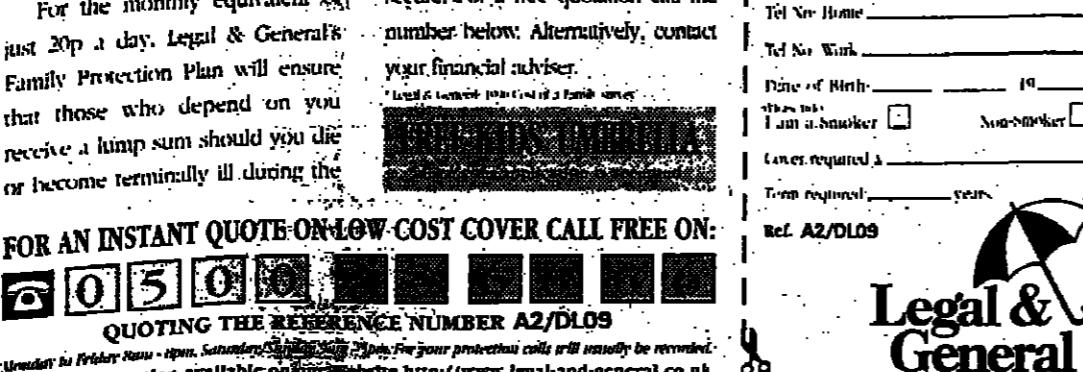
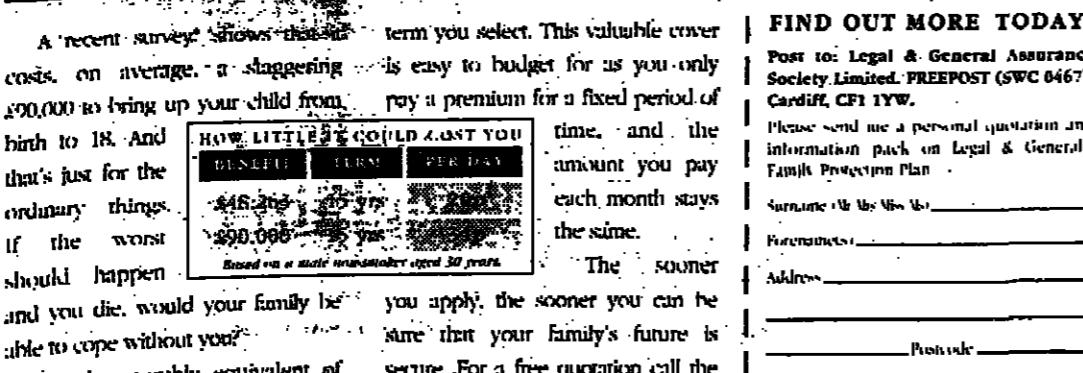
Houston Astrodome, which covers more than nine acres.

The first great dome, the Pantheon in Rome, was built in AD 123. Spanning 142ft, barely a seventh of the Millennium Dome, it was built of concrete, and still stands. The Romans knew that a dome would bulge at the bottom if not restrained and built the supporting walls 23ft thick. Later architects, such as Filippo Brunelleschi in Florence and Sir Christopher Wren at St Paul's, ringed their domes with iron hoops or chains.

The Millennium Dome is to be roofed with light translucent fabric. It is unlikely to stand for as long as the Pantheon; the architects give the fabric a life of 15 years.



Pantheon: first great dome, built in AD 123



# British study strengthens Nasa claim of life on Mars

By NIGEL HAWKES AND NICK BOOTH

OPEN University researchers produced new evidence yesterday that life evolved on Mars and might still exist there.

The evidence, presented at a meeting at the Royal Society, strengthens claims made in August by scientists from the American space agency Nasa that life had evolved on Mars. That evidence came from a meteorite which originated on Mars and was found in Antarctica in 1984.

The Open University team — Professor Colin Pillinger, Monica Grady and Ian Wright — yesterday presented the results of their research on fragments of the meteorite called AH 84001. They have extracted small amounts of carbonates from the meteorite and found a mixture of carbon isotopes characteristic of the methane generated by microbes. These isotopes match those found in organic materials in rocks containing the Earth's oldest fossils.

Dr Wright said yesterday: "We reanalysed grains within the meteorite and the carbon-based material we found had to have been formed by microbial activity. There is no other explanation. This is a smoking

gun for life on Mars. I believe we will be in a position soon to study Martian metabolism."

Three grains of material, each finer than a human hair, were analysed and each had a different chemical composition. One showed signs of changes to its carbon chemistry which is similar to methane-producing bacteria on Earth. The group also looked again at another meteorite from Mars, which it first examined in the 1980s. In 1980 it published a paper showing that the meteorite, AH 79001, contained carbonates.

AH 79001, discovered in 1979, is only 200 million years old, compared with the 3.6 billion years of AH 84001. It shows signs of the same unusual chemistry found in the older meteorite.

Although the book is aimed primarily at children, the church publishers hope that adults will also let their hair down and help to introduce youngsters to the brighter side of religion with titles such as *I like Eating Sandwiches and Cakes and Prayer is Like a Telephone for us to talk to Jesus*.

The songbook, *Jump Up If You're Wearing Red*, published by Church House, the

headquarters of the established church, features "action" songs of a type more readily associated with holiday camps and parties. It includes *He's Got The Whole World in His Hands*, the old children's favourite *Wide, Wide as the Ocean* and songs with lines such as "He gives me lips to eat my chips".

In *Who's The King of The Jungle?*, a congregation is invited to act and sound like monkeys. Another, *Here Come The Frogs, Hopping Round the Pond*, is intended to reinforce the idea that God can come to worshippers through experience of his

created world. Others feature dubious words, such as in the lines "The Lord said to Noah, There's going to be a bloody, bloody, bloody". Traditionalists might be partly appeased by the inclusion of one Latin chorus, *Domine Deus*.

Launched yesterday at St



Children performing one of the Church's "action" songs yesterday at the launch of the new songbook at St John the Baptist church school in Hackney, east London

## Church songbook sings praises of dancing in the aisles

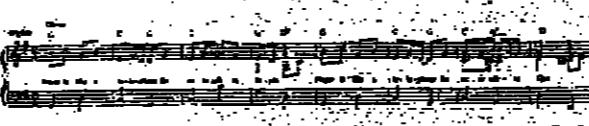
By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHURCHGOERS are invited to "do the Holy Hokey" and take part in barn dances in the aisles in a new Church of England songbook launched yesterday.

Although the book is aimed primarily at children, the church publishers hope that adults will also let their hair down and help to introduce youngsters to the brighter side of religion with titles such as *I like Eating Sandwiches and Cakes and Prayer is Like a Telephone for us to talk to Jesus*.

The songbook, *Jump Up If You're Wearing Red*, published by Church House, the

### Prayer is like a telephone



Ringing the changes: a song to cheer up services

John the Baptist church school in Hackney, east London, where children aged three to nine performed the songs complete with actions. The book is said to be the first compilation of its kind and was welcomed by teachers and clergy alike. Hamish

Bruce, the book's editor and a former English teacher, said: "We believe children should have a balanced diet in terms of the songs they sing in church and school. This should include traditional hymns as well as action songs."

He said that although the book was compiled for children, he hoped that adults would also use it in worship when children were present: "I was a chorister for 30 years and come from a very poor background. The first time I sang an action song, it was a complete culture shock."

"For some adults it is difficult to sing action songs, but they are ways that child-

ren, and through them adults also, can learn to take part in using action in worship."

Diana Murie, the Church of England children's officer, said: "Apart from a football terrace there is nowhere else where you can stand and sing loudly and in a safe environment."

Fr Enid, of St Margaret's community of nuns, said: "It is an excellent book, and we need this material for our work in Sunday schools and churches."

□ *Jump Up If You're Wearing Red*, £9.95, Church House Publishing, Great Smith St, London SW1 3NZ.

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## Newsreader's memoir splits family Brothers accuse Snow of humiliating their sick mother

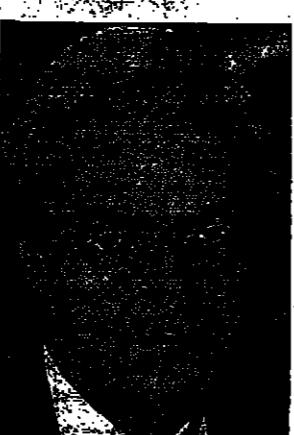
By CAROL MIDGLEY

**T**HE newsreader Jon Snow was accused by his brothers yesterday of a "pitiless humiliation" of their elderly mother by publicly blaming her for his difficulty in forming close relationships.

In a new book, *Sons and Mothers*, Snow portrays his 85-year-old mother Joan, a bishop's widow who now has Alzheimer's disease, as a cold and undemonstrative figure who rarely kissed or hugged him. She had also left him, he says, with a "pathological fear" of claustrophobic relationships with women.

When, five years ago, the time came for her to be moved into full-time care, Snow was "ruthless" in his refusal to make sacrifices for her.

Yesterday his elder brother Tom attacked the memoir in a letter to *The Guardian*. He said: "It is simply pitiless. Self-indulgence has gained the upper hand over decency. I cannot see how anything in his childhood can now justify the humiliation of our mother, whose memory of those times has been wiped out. She is therefore, quite literally, defenceless in the face of such



Jon Snow recalled rare moments of intimacy

ghastly public retribution." He agreed with criticism by his brother on the "inherent cruelty" of boarding schools, but added: "Upper middle class life of the 1950s equips my brother with no excuse for failing to accept full moral responsibility for his own life in late middle age."

Tom Snow, who lives in south London, declined to enlarge on his letter yesterday. His youngest brother Nicholas, who is chief architect for Kirklees Council in Hudders-

field, Yorkshire, said he did not agree with Jon Snow's views of their mother.

The Snow brothers were raised in Sussex, where their father George was a public school headmaster, and in Yorkshire, where he was Bishop of Wharfedale from 1961-71. The oldest and youngest brothers remain close, but Jon Snow said in an interview last year: "I probably see my brothers only once or twice a year. We are a pretty distant family. It's a great pity but you can't artificially engineer these things."

Yesterday the Channel 4 newsreader refused to comment on the public row but added: "Anything you want to use from the book is fine." His cousin, the *Newsnight* presenter Peter Snow, also declined to comment.

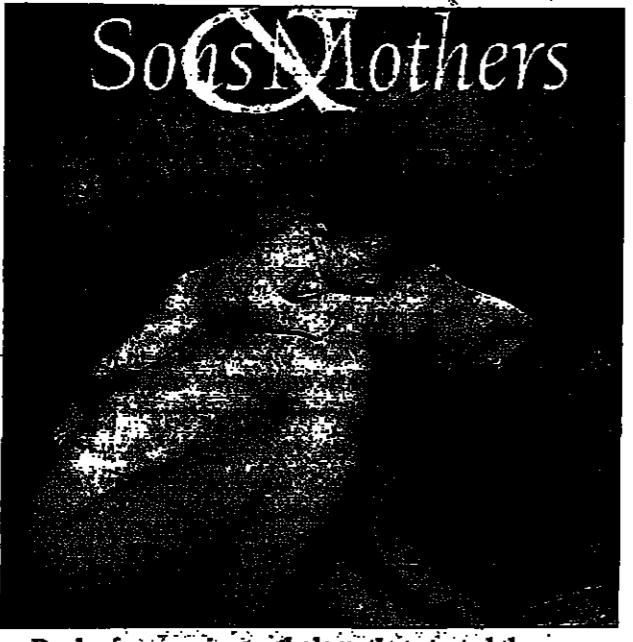
Jon Snow, 49, has two daughters with his partner Madeleine Colvin. Their earlier relationship was broken off in 1979 when he was briefly engaged to the Radio 4 presenter Anna Ford. In *Sons and Mothers*, an anthology with several contributors, he indicates that his mother was totally dedicated to his father, who died of a stroke in 1977, leaving little room for the bedroom.

He maintains that he was closer to his mother than his brothers and that she was resentful of him having girlfriends. He likens her to Gertrude, the jealous mother in D.H. Lawrence's novel *Sons and Lovers*. His only intimate moments were on Fridays when, after having their hair washed, the brothers would lie on towels in front of the gas fire in their mother's bedroom.

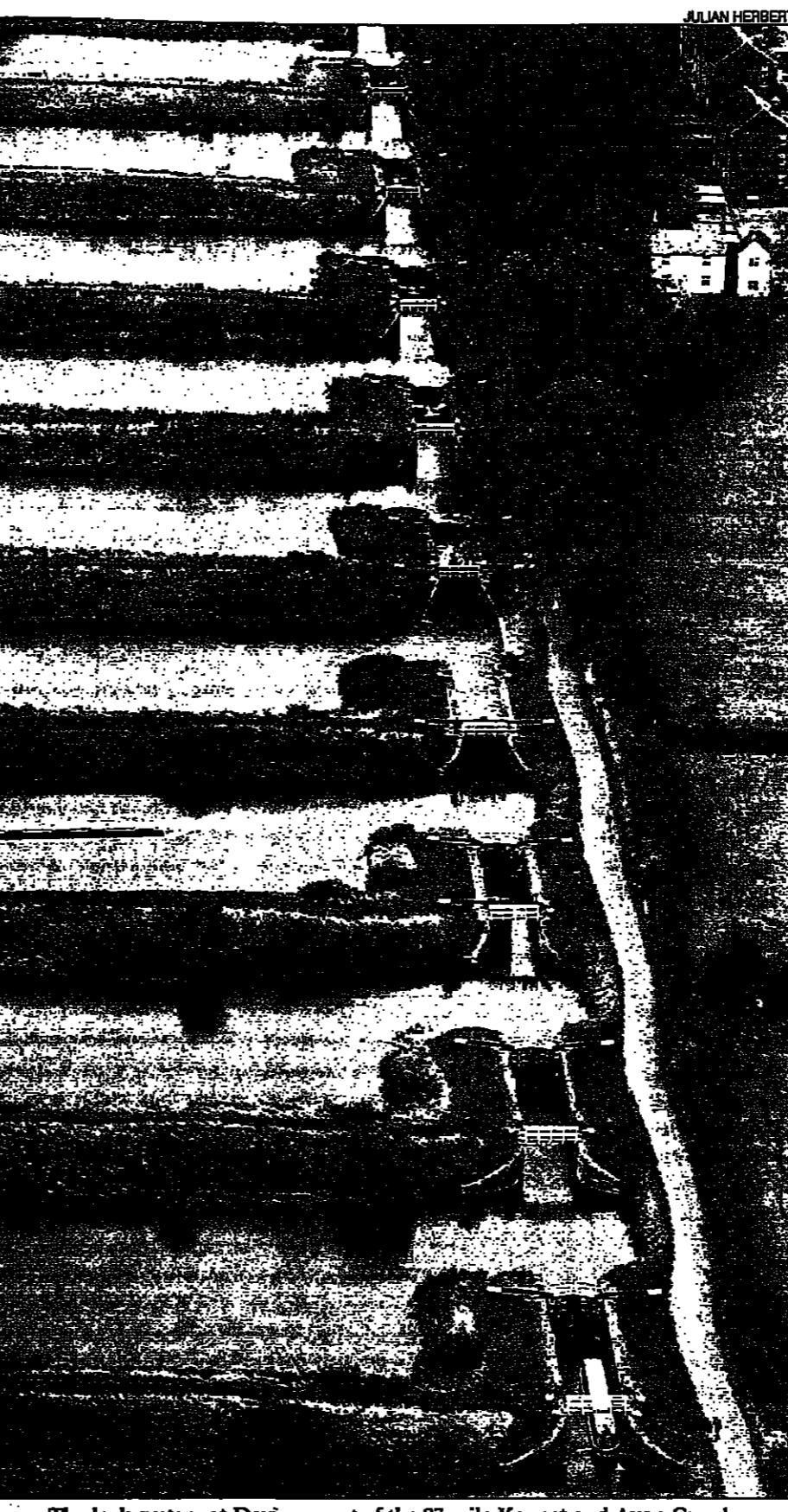
"Beyond those treasured moments in front of the fire, I have no memory of any other tactile life with her," he says.

"I never sat on her lap, or ran my fingers through her hair, as my children do mine."

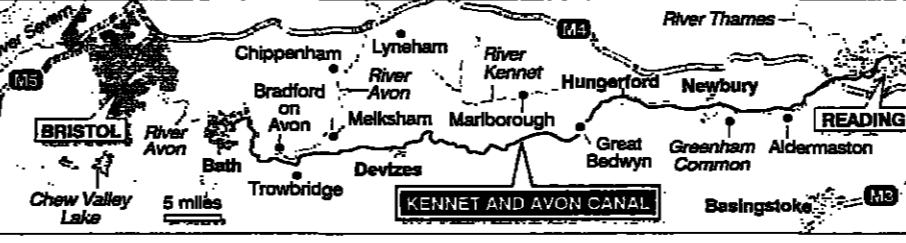
He concludes that this has left him with "an appreciation of the openness, touch, friendship and love that eluded so much of my relationship with her."



Book of memoirs by Jon Snow that started the row



The lock system at Devizes, part of the 87-mile Kennet and Avon Canal



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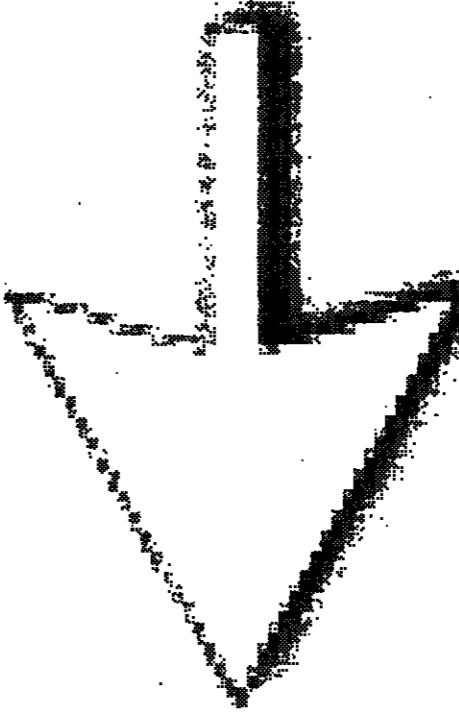
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Lottery cash saves waterway treasure

By NICK NUTTALL  
AND JOHN YOUNG

THE restoration of the Kennet and Avon Canal, one of Britain's most famous waterways, has been assured by a £25 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The fund announced yesterday that it was giving the canal, which links the Thames at Reading with the Avon at Bristol, its largest grant since it began distributing National Lottery proceeds in January last year.

The money marks the crowning achievement of a 30-year campaign by enthusiasts, local councils and British Waterways to save the 87-mile waterway, which fell into disuse in the 1930s.

The canal is considered a jewel of 18th and 19th century engineering. At Devizes are 29 locks, the longest flight in Britain, and along its route are splendid stone bridges and neo-classical aqueducts, including those at Avoncliff and Limley Stoke. The canal also has five Sites of Special Scientific Interest along its banks.

David Fletcher, chief executive of British Waterways, which owns and manages the canal, described it yesterday as a treasure house of Britain's industrial history. "Providing a sustainable future for its special environment and magnificent monuments will benefit millions," he said.

Much of the money will be spent on improving access to the towpath and building ramps to help disabled visitors to enjoy the canal, its buildings and monuments and freshwater wildlife.

Michael Goodenough, the waterway manager, said the investment from the lottery would trigger a leisure boom along the canal, with private investors eager to develop marinas, waterside restaurants and pubs.

Another notable grant of £6.5 million, has been allocated to the restoration of the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey, Essex. For over three centuries, until their closure in 1991, the mills provided the explosives needed by the armed services and, not surprisingly, have never been open to the public.

**Bottomley says sports clubs need tax breaks**

By DOMINIC KENNEDY  
AND JOHN YOUNG

SPORTS clubs should be given tax-free charitable status because they are taking over from the Church in binding fragmented communities together, Virginia Bottomley said yesterday.

The National Heritage Secretary has called on the Charity Commission to recognise organisations, such as bowls and tennis clubs, for fostering of community spirit. They cannot claim charity status at the moment because they are considered to be run only in their members' interests.

Mrs Bottomley said: "Life is more fragmented. There are more short-term contracts, families are by their nature more short term. It is more important to invest in things that bind society together."

The canal has done it. The places around which people congregate today are sport, a football match, a film, a pop concert. The use of arts, sports and heritage as a catalyst to bring the community together is very timely, together with a reinforcement of the role of voluntary organisations.

"We can get young people involved in sport, in football, netball, basketball, in orchestras. It's giving people a stake in the community."

Mrs Bottomley says her favourite National Lottery statistic is the £10 million that has been shared between 181 bowls clubs. She also pointed to £47 million for new swimming pools, £23 million for football, £21 million for athletics, £17 million for cricket and £15 million for tennis. Small volunteer-led community groups are to be given £350,000 to pool information on fundraising and administration.

Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, launched its annual report yesterday with a warning that proceeds were being diverted to replace government grants for heritage and the arts. He said: "If grants continue to be cut, the creeping process of lottery monies substituting for aid will inevitably follow. The result will be a spectacular U-turn on everything the Government said when the Lottery was launched."

'We will look back with love and thanks for an extraordinary man,' former Tory MP tells mourners



Ruth Harding: two of her children read the lessons

## Harding's wife and girlfriend share front pew at funeral

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE wife and girlfriend of Matthew Harding, the late vice-chairman of Chelsea Football Club, met for the first time at his funeral yesterday.

Ruth Harding, 42, and Vicky Jaramillo, 25, shared the front pew but did not speak or exchange glances during the service at St Margaret's Church in Ditchling,

East Sussex.

Mr Harding, who had pledged £1 million to the Labour Party shortly before his death, was killed in a helicopter crash in Cheshire last week. Among the mourners at the 13th-century church were John Prescott, deputy Labour leader; Ken Bates, the chairman of Chelsea, and Glenn Hoddle, the England coach.

Miss Jaramillo, the mother of Mr Harding's two-year-old daughter, Ella, was the only mourner to leave a wreath

outside the church. The note read: "Soulmate and love of my life. Forever and ever yours, Vicky." Mrs Harding, married to her husband for 20 years before he left her in the summer for Miss Jaramillo, was accompanied by their children, Hannah, 18, Luke, 14, and twins Patrick and Joel, 11. Hannah and Joel read the lessons.

After the service, a spokesman for the Benfield Group, Mr Harding's insurance company, said that his £200 million fortune had been left in a discretionary trust. "Matthew requested that his wife and her children, and girlfriend and her children, are properly provided for and will continue to live at their respective homes. He has expressed his clear wishes to the trustees that they support, for as long as it is deemed appropriate,

both the Benfield Group and Chelsea." The statement was intended to end speculation about the contents of the will, which will not be published for some time.

The address to the service was from Francis Maude, a former Conservative MP who had been a friend of Mr Harding since their days at Abingdon School, Oxfordshire. "Matthew was driven, competitive, creative, touched with a bit of genius," he said. His passion for Chelsea was intense. "Never look back," he used to say. But we will look back, with love and thanks for an extraordinary man."

Labour launched its most costly advertising campaign yesterday, which will be funded by the £1 million Harding donation. The nationwide poster blitz will have the slogan "Enough is Enough".



Vicky Jaramillo: left her wreath outside the church

Pilot 'not licensed for bad weather'

THE pilot of the helicopter in which Matthew Harding died was not licensed to fly in bad weather conditions, it was disclosed yesterday. Reports differ as to the seriousness of weather conditions at the time of the crash and friends of the pilot, Michael Goss, 38, insist he would not have taken off if they had been bad.

Mr Goss, who also died in the crash, was not instrument-rated, meaning he was not licensed to use navigational instruments to fly through bad weather. Investigators are said to be concentrating on whether pilot error was to blame and whether Mr Goss should have taken off.

The balloonist Per Lindstrand said at the time that a few hours before Mr Goss took off there was "zero visibility" in the region. "There was a lot of fog. It was definitely not a night to be flying a helicopter. I would not have flown to Bolton and back in those conditions," he said.

## Birth can be the death of passion for most women

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

IT was love at first sight when, seven years ago, Mrs Jacqueline Le Page met the man who was to be her husband. Mrs Le Page, who was then 22, was engaged to him within a week and before they married shortly afterwards they had decided to have children.

When in May 1990 Mrs Le Page was admitted to Kingston Hospital, Kingston upon Thames, for delivery she was expecting twins. Her Caesarean section was not a success and she needed a hysterectomy. A judge decided there had been "a catalogue of errors" and awarded her £40,000.

Mrs Le Page based her claim on two counts. She was disappointed that she would not be able to have more children and suffered severe jealousy when she saw pregnant women or newborn babies. Her claim was also based on the effect the birth had had on her marriage: she believed that her husband's adultery was the direct result of her loss of libido after the hysterectomy. Mrs Le Page felt de-sexed and found her husband physically repulsive.

Although Mrs Le Page had such a traumatic time during delivery, it may not be altogether fair to blame a loss of sexual desire upon that experience. Difficulties during childbirth may certainly contribute to loss of libido, but this also often occurs for many months after a perfectly straightforward labour.

Fortunately time and, with it, a return to the old hormonal balance, restores libido.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

## Ovary removal can help cancer victims

BY A STAFF REPORTER

WOMEN with breast cancer can survive longer if their ovaries are "switched off" or removed, according to doctors.

An overview of 12 clinical trials across the world showed that ovarian ablation — stopping the normal function of the ovaries with surgery or radiotherapy — could increase life expectancy by up to 15 years. The study, published in *The Lancet* yesterday, involved 2,102 women aged under 50 who were generally pre-menopausal. In trials before 1980, they were split into groups and given ovarian ablation by surgery or irradiation, or a control treatment.

For every 100 women allocated to the ablation group, an extra six were still alive 15 years later compared with the controls. The analysis was carried out under the auspices of the Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group, an international co-operative of researchers.

The results confirmed the findings of a ten-year follow-up of the trials published by the group four years ago. The researchers, co-ordinated by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, wrote: "In women aged under 50 with early breast cancer, ablation of functioning ovaries significantly improves

long-term survival, at least in the absence of chemotherapy. Previous studies have shown that oestrogen produced by the ovaries is linked to breast cancer and chances of the disease recurring."

But cancer experts are still unable to agree whether the benefits of hormone deprivation are outweighed by the disadvantages. Ovarian ablation may incur side-effects that include acute menopausal symptoms and the long-term effects of an early menopause.

In a commentary on the research also published in *The Lancet*, Dr Victor Barley of the Bristol Oncology Centre wrote: "Even if we can counsel patients about the relative safety of hormone deprivation, it is still not clear which group of patients will gain most from this operation."

Blood tests taken from the mother could provide a safer form of prenatal diagnosis for genetic defects, a team from the University of California has shown (Nigel Hawkes writes). Existing tests that involve taking samples from the womb pose a small risk to the unborn baby. Another advantage is that the blood tests could be taken earlier in the pregnancy, when an abortion is less traumatic to the mother.

## Phone may trials

THE LEADER OF THE LIBERTIES, Sir David Steel, has called for a review of the way the telephone industry is regulated. He said: "The telephone industry is changing rapidly and there is a danger that the current regulatory framework is becoming increasingly irrelevant. We must ensure that the industry remains competitive and efficient, and that consumers benefit from the latest technology and services. This requires a review of the regulatory framework to ensure that it remains fit for purpose."

## Oversup away at humble

IT IS proposed that the telephone industry should be deregulated, with the aim of encouraging competition and reducing costs. The proposal is likely to face opposition from the telecommunications industry, which has argued that deregulation would lead to a loss of jobs and a decline in investment.

Mr Steel said: "The telephone industry is changing rapidly and there is a danger that the current regulatory framework is becoming increasingly irrelevant. We must ensure that the industry remains competitive and efficient, and that consumers benefit from the latest technology and services. This requires a review of the regulatory framework to ensure that it remains fit for purpose."

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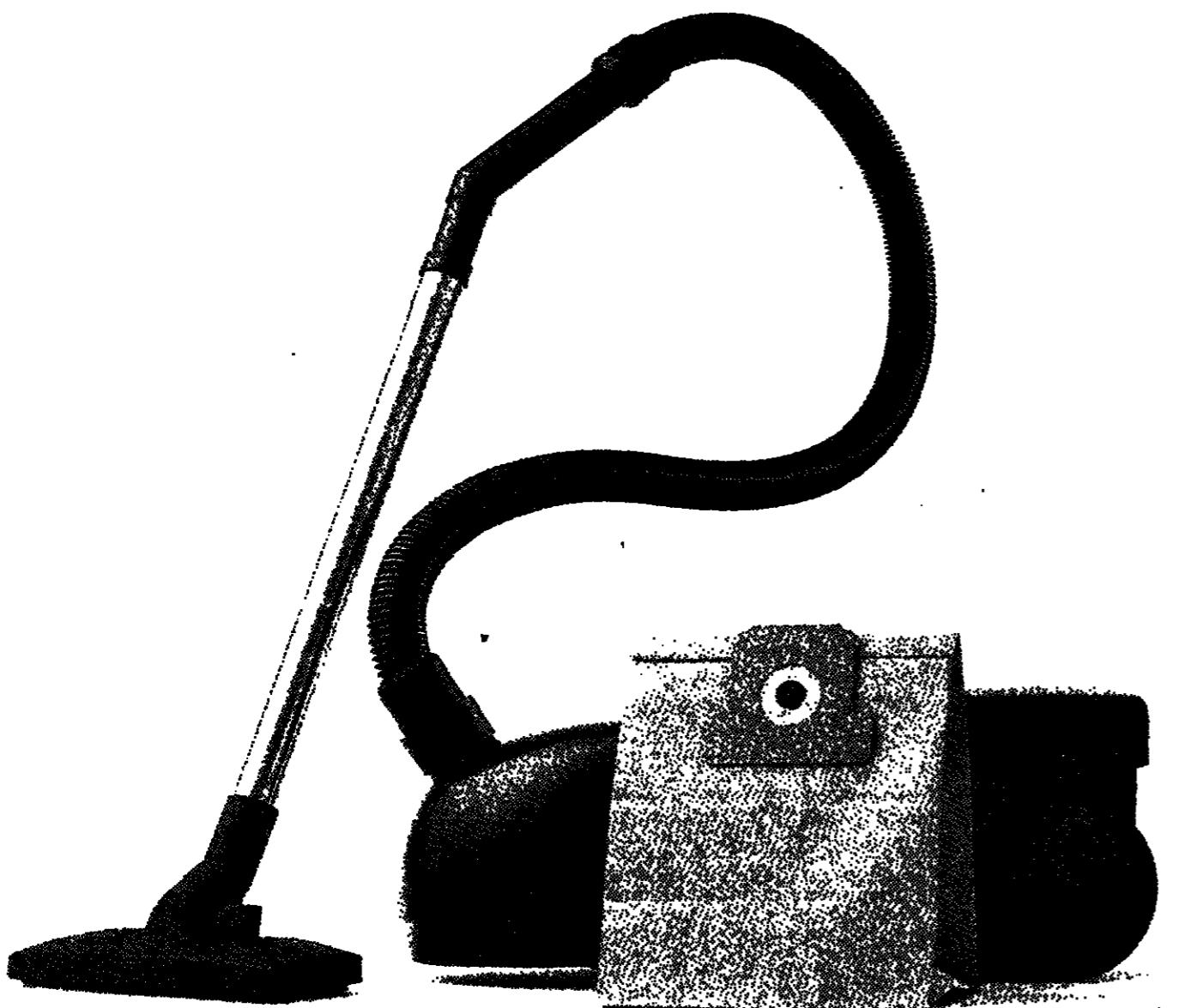
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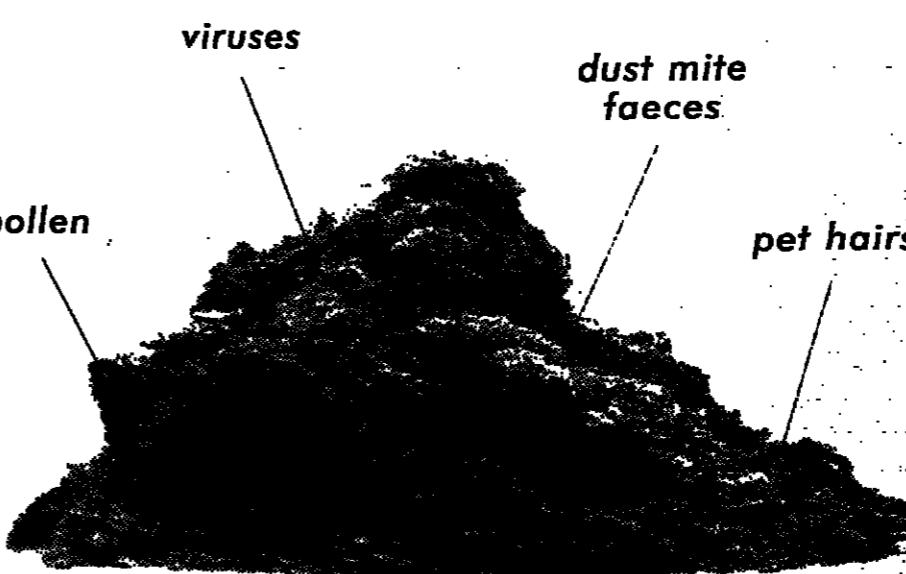
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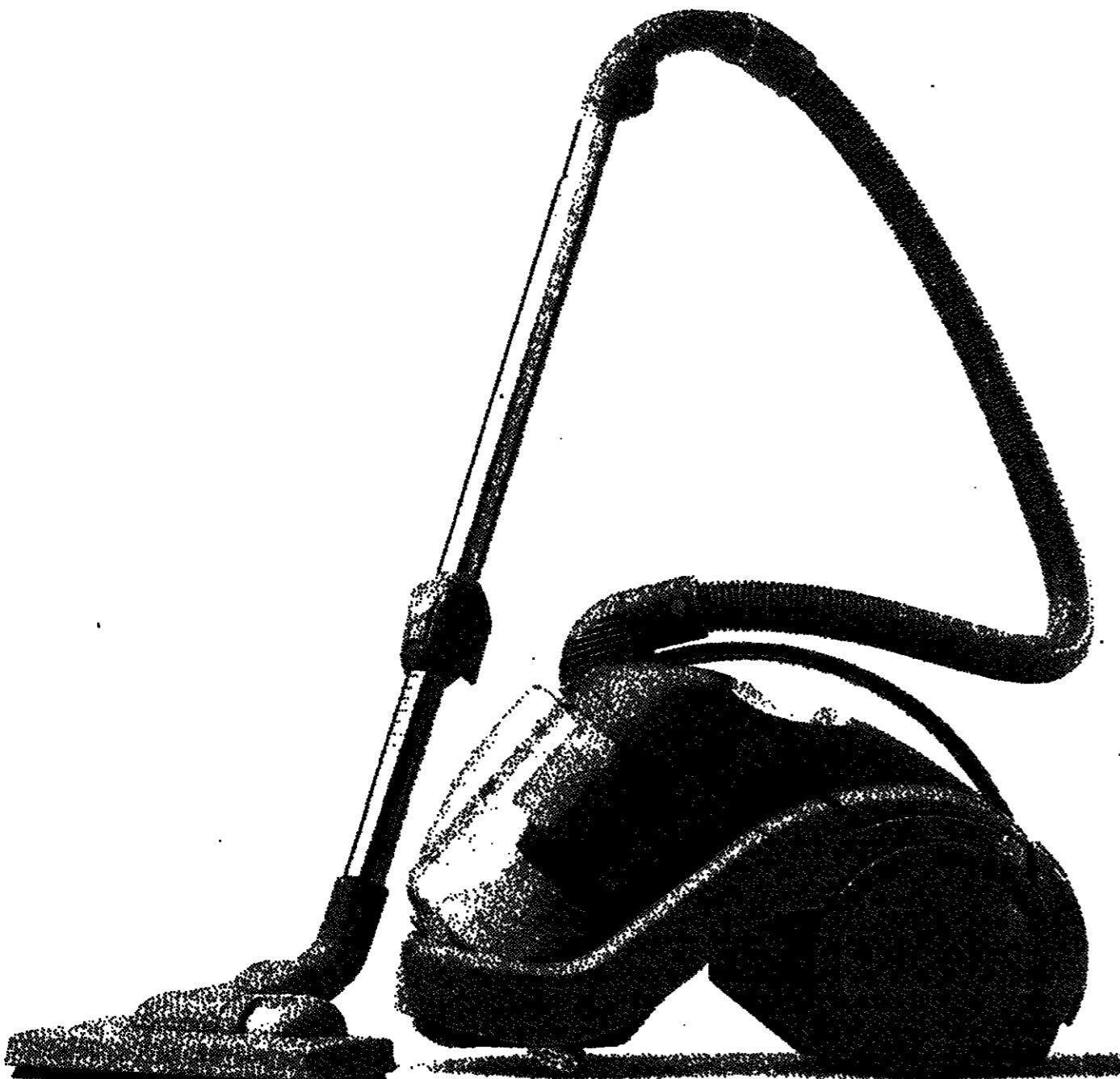
# The evidence against vacuum cleaners with bags keeps piling up.



Because bags clog, bag cleaners lose suction...



...leaving this behind in your home.



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Bag vacuum cleaners perform inefficiently because they quickly lose suction as the pores inside the bag clog with dust. This reduction can happen so rapidly that, after just a few minutes, suction can drop to half-strength - and keep going down. • This means that most people, in the course of normal vacuuming, are using cleaners which operate at a fraction of their suction. • Dyson vacuum cleaners have eradicated the bag and its problems by using powerful centrifugal forces to remove dust, dirt, allergens and particles as small as 0.1 of a micron. • Tests were carried out under normal conditions in average family homes. • Dyson vacuum cleaners are available from all major electrical retailers. • For further information, call Dyson Sales on 01666 827200 and quote reference number 961007.

**dyson**  
dual cyclone  
technology

EMU  
Brita  
minist

By Andrew Cope

**BRITAIN** is a single currency would end the British referendum on whether to join the European Union than have been permitted under existing EU rules.

Other countries in the European Union have set Britain's referendum date for June 23, which has led the Conservative government to propose to postpone the vote to 2017, giving

the other Conservative members of the European Union would mean Britain having to share the currency, each supporting the proposal throughout the EU.

Although the report was issued upon the European Union as evidence of the advantages of monetary union, the majority of the public voted to leave the EU, leading to more questions about the outcome of the referendum.

The Social Security News

## How far Tories v on moral

**I**t's the economy, say David and James Carville's famous slogan from the 1992 presidential campaign has faded through both this year's contest and Tory debates now over election strategy. Is a strong economy enough to win re-election and how far should the Tories try to take the initiative in the family values debate? The latest MORI poll for The Times can be seen as a warning of the risks, but the experience of the Labour administration shows the potential.

The poll shows that the public cares about moral issues. In the unweighted sample asked every month about the most important issues facing Britain, law and order has come top for the first time. That is partly a reflection of the publicity given to Ian Lawrence's moral manifesto, as well as the wrangling between the parties over gun control, knives, stalking and the paedophile registry.

With concern over law and order is spread across all social groups, it is of above average importance to those aged over 55, those who are optimistic about the economy and, crucially, among swing voters both those who have deserted the Tories since 1992 and new supporters of Labour since then. The poll also registers a record level of concern over education, again felt strongly by swing voters and the middle classes. By contrast, unemployment, top of the list of issues since June 1991, has fallen to third, cited by 37 per cent now, compared with 49 per cent in January.

Labour has so far made most of the running after a series of strong speeches on moral themes from Tony Blair, while the Tories have appeared confused. This is underlined by the poll question on the proposals made by Mrs Lawrence on cricket knives, lessons on good citizenships and raising the public standing of teachers and the police. Asked which party, if any, would be most likely to put the ideas into practice, the public backs Labour by two to one over the Tories, 45 to 20 per cent. This is very similar to the current split on voting

## Dixons chick Prescott in

**A** COMPANY chairman accused Labour yesterday of seeking to infringe his freedom of speech by complaining about a television interview in which he praised the Conservative prime minister John Major while

On the BBC's Six O'Clock News, Sir Stanley Kalin, chairman of Dixons, applied the Government's name-



# EMU would cost Britain billions, ministers warned

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOINING a single currency would cost the British taxpayer billions of pounds in help for European states that face huge pension debts, ministers were warned yesterday.

Other countries in the European Union have far bigger commitments than Britain, which has led the Continent in transferring the provision of state pensions to the private sector. According to a cross-party Commons report, membership of monetary union would mean Britain having to share the soaring costs of supporting pensioners throughout the EU.

Although the report was seized upon by Euro-sceptic MPs as evidence of the dangers of monetary union, Treasury ministers immediately denied its main argument by claiming that the Maastricht treaty protected Britain from being saddled with other countries' pension debts.

The Social Security Select

Committee accused European governments of failing to include state pension costs when considering national deficits which must be kept within tight limits before countries can join a single currency.

The committee came under pressure from senior European Commission officials who, according to an appendix to the report, asked them to encourage debate but to "stop short of saying ... there should be no EMU". Although the MPs avoid going that far, they demand that ministers persuade their European colleagues to take account of pension liabilities in deciding whether member states can join a single currency.

Frank Field, the committee's Labour chairman, accused the Commission of trying to dodge a crisis threatening many European member states. "They can't cut pensions because people will go out on the street and riot," if

they issue bonds interest rates go up and if they print money causes inflation."

The report claims that, if Britain's national debt included the £200 billion liability for state pensions, it would increase from its present £5,000 per person to £9,000 per person. If Britain had also to share other European pension debts, the figure could increase to £30,000 per person, or to a national deficit of £2,000 billion.

"As the UK's outstanding public pensions liabilities are substantially below those of other EU members, there would be a risk that if the UK joined a single currency, British taxpayers could be called upon to help finance the pay-as-you-go pension obligations of other members."

However, William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told the Commons that there was "no question" of Britain taking on other coun-

tries' pension costs. Other countries "will find themselves ... either having to cut pension entitlements, as some of them are trying to do now and causing trouble in the streets, or they will have to put up taxes".

The report says that Britain would have to "suffer the consequences of being tied to interest rates on the single currency that were forced up by the market pressures of financing certain countries' inherited pension commitments". The European Central Bank might come under pressure to relax monetary



The pensions gap: Frank Field, left, sees a crisis ahead; William Waldegrave says Britain has nothing to worry about



**MP favours Bill on under-age drinkers**

BY ANDREW PIERCE

PLANS to give the police powers to confiscate alcohol from under-age drinkers in the street, which were dropped from the Queen's Speech, are likely to be piloted through the Commons by a Tory MP.

But Dr Robert Spink, who won third place in the annual ballot for Private member's Bills yesterday, will face strong pressure to propose legislation favoured by the anti-abortion lobby. Dr Spink, the parliamentary aide to Ann Widdecombe, a Home Office minister, said he had yet to decide but was drawn towards the under-age drinking ban.

Nigel Waterson (C, Eastbourne), who came fourth in the ballot, is considering a Bill to enable the prosecution in Britain of paedophiles who commit offences abroad.

Jimmy Wray (Lab, Glasgow Provan) topped the poll and Barry Legg (C, Milton Keynes SW) was second. Neither has disclosed his intention. More than 300 backbenchers entered but only the first four will be guaranteed a second reading for their Bills.

## How far should Tories venture on moral values?

**I**t's the economy, stupid," James Carville's famous slogan from the 1992 presidential campaign has echoed through both this year's contests and Tory debates now over election strategy. Is a strong economy enough to win re-election and how far should the Tories try to take the initiative in the family/values debate? The latest MORI poll for *The Times* can be seen as a warning of the risks, but the experience of the Clinton administration shows the potential.

The poll shows that the public cares about moral issues. In the unannounced opinion asked every month about the most important issues facing Britain, law and order has come top for the first time. That is partly a reflection of the publicity given to Frances Lawrence's moral manifesto as well as the wrangling between the parties over gun control, knives, stalking and the pedophile register.

While concern over law and order is spread across all social groups, it is of above average importance to those aged over 55, those who are optimistic about the economy, and, crucially, among swing voters both those who have deserted the Tories since 1992 and new supporters of Labour since then. The poll also registers a record level of concern over education, again felt strongly by swing voters and the middle classes. By contrast, unemployment, top of the list of issues since June 1991, has fallen to third, cited by 37 per cent now, compared with 49 per cent in January.

Labour has so far made most of the running after a series of strong speeches on moral themes from Tony Blair, while the Tories have appeared confused. This is underlined by the poll question on the proposals made by Mrs Lawrence on combat knives, lessons on good citizenship and raising the public standing of teachers and the police. Asked which party, if any, would be most likely to put its ideas into practice, the public backs Labour by two to one over the Tories, 45 to 20 per cent. This is very similar to the current split on voting

PETER RIDDELL

## Dixons chief attacks Prescott in bias row

A COMPANY chairman accused Labour yesterday of seeking to infringe his freedom of speech by complaining about a television interview in which he praised the Government (Alice Thomson writes).

On the BBC's *Sir O'clock News*, Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, applauded the Government's econo-

mic performance and hailed the return of the "feel-good" factor. But John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, accused him of being a "Tory placeman" and complained to the BBC.

In a letter to *The Times* today Sir Stanley says that in the interview, given on Wednesday, he made an independent assessment of the economy. "This is the first time Labour has gagged a private citizen. It's outrageous and very heavy-handed. Mr Prescott must not be allowed to muzzle the whole country."

Mr Prescott told the BBC that the interview was a "disgrace". He said that Sir Stanley had been knighted by the Conservative Party, was a party fundraiser and had helped to create Tory propaganda.

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**WELCOME TO THE FUTURE**



Letters, page 21



American  
Lord  
wives  
in plot

BY RAY TAYLOR

chief warlord  
who survived an  
attempt when  
ambushed him in  
his presidential

Taylor's senior  
officer in the compa-  
ny who forced their  
Jeeps. Radio  
told ten people were

stripped from the capital  
during fighting in April.  
Controversy flared when  
officials from Britain, Ger-  
many and The Netherlands,  
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accounting move, saying  
that it contravened European  
accounting standards.

The French Government's  
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per cent of gross domestic product  
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Under French plans, France  
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coffers, which in return must  
assume the company's future  
pension liabilities.

Yves Franchet, Director-  
General of Eurostat, the Com-  
mission's statistical service,

FROM LEYLA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

AN ACCOUNTING play by  
France to ensure that it meets  
the Maastricht criteria for  
a single currency is acceptable,  
the European Commission  
decided yesterday.

The ruling comes after three  
days of speculation which have  
shaken the foreign ex-  
change markets and embarrassed  
the Commission.

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Yves Franchet, Director-  
General of Eurostat, the Com-  
mission's statistical service,

which reports to Yves  
Thibault de Silguy, the Economic  
and Monetary Affairs  
Commissioner, agreed yesterday  
that the switch could be  
classified as a capital transfer  
and not a financial transaction  
and was therefore acceptable.

Critics have said the one-off  
transfer smacks of creative  
accounting and runs counter  
to guidelines in the Maastricht  
treaty for countries to take  
sustainable economic measures  
to qualify for the planned start of the single  
currency in 1999. Germany,  
especially, has spoken out

against creative accounting  
measures. Economists have  
argued that the transfer of  
cash in return for future  
pension payments is not a real  
reduction in the budget deficit.

Commission approval for  
the French manoeuvre had  
been expected. It is a politically  
sensitive issue as, without  
France, the chances of the  
monetary union starting on  
schedule could have been  
thrown into question.

Asked whether the decision  
would pave the way for other  
member states to take a similar  
approach, a spokesman for M de Silguy said: "All cases  
are considered on their merits.  
There is no discrimination  
between the states." He  
emphasised the decision was a  
technical, not a political, one.

The Commission's decision  
could be seen as an indication  
that more creative accountancy  
could be allowed so that  
countries heavily in debt, such  
as Spain and Italy, can meet  
the Maastricht criteria.

Privatisation payments are  
not usually allowed to reduce  
budget deficits. The Commission  
recently ruled that Belgium  
could not put BF20 billion  
(£400 million) from the  
sale of Belgacom, the state  
telecommunications group, towards  
reducing its deficit.

### Jobless toll at record 3.1m

PARIS French economic  
confidence suffered a fresh  
blow yesterday with the  
release of figures showing  
the number of unemployed  
at a record high (Ben  
Macintyre writes). A further  
27,000 people joined the  
jobless rolls in September,  
bringing the total of  
people without work to 3.1  
million, 12.6 per cent of the  
population. At least 170,000  
people have lost their jobs  
in the past year.



Grapes from the Ugni Blanc vines are gathered at the height of the harvest in Cognac to make the world's most celebrated brandy

## Cognac vineyards fight lethal fungus

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN COGNAC

A LETHAL fungus with no  
known cure is spreading  
through the vineyards of Cognac,  
carving a trail of destruction  
that has left makers of the  
famous brandy staring gloomily  
into their glasses.

The fungus, *Eutypa armata*, was identified in 1977

but has since spread rapidly  
to some of France's greatest  
vineyards and more recently  
to the wine-growing regions

of California. Such famous  
grapes as Cabernet Sauvignon,  
Merlot, Gamay, Chenin  
and Cinsault have all been  
affected, but it is the Ugni  
Blanc vine, which provides  
more than 90 per cent of the  
Cognac harvest in the Charente  
region, north of Bordeaux, that has  
been most seriously affected.

The latest survey, completed  
in 1992, showed that 40 per  
cent of all vines in Cognac  
had symptoms of eutypiosis  
and more than half are now  
believed to be infected. At  
least 10 per cent of the vines  
have withered and died from  
the disease.

"If you fly over the vine-  
yards in the spring, when the  
young leaves are growing, the  
effect is really dramatic with  
whole areas of vines blackened  
and sick," said Patrick  
Raguenaud, the *maître de  
chais* (cellar master) for  
Martell, the oldest of the main  
Cognac producers, as he  
strolled through the company's  
vineyards this week.

France's wine industry has  
survived pestilence before,  
most notably the dreaded  
*Phylloxera* louse that wiped  
out most of Europe's vine-  
yards at the end of the last  
century, yet eutypiosis has  
proved a particularly hardy  
and fickle foe, able to survive  
every fungicide.

But after six years of re-  
search, genetic engineers in  
southern France may be close  
to creating a breed of the vine  
capable of resisting the  
fungus.

The disease takes hold  
when airborne fungal spores  
enter the vine through  
wounds left by pruning. This  
develops into a canker, shrivelling  
the leaves and flowers, reducing  
grape yield and eventually  
poisoning the plant with the toxin, known as  
eutypine.

"It takes our section after  
section of the inside of the  
trunk, like slices out of a  
cannister," explained M.  
Raguenaud, breaking apart a  
crumbling limb to display the  
effects of the fungus.

But eutypiosis is also un-  
predictable. "Sometimes a  
plant will show symptoms  
one year and not the next;  
sometimes one limb will get it  
but not another. It can dis-  
appear completely for several  
years before coming back," he  
said.

In an effort to halt the  
steady march of the disease,  
authorities in the Charente  
recently issued a directive  
ordering vine-growers to burn  
all uprooted plants with  
symptoms of eutypiosis or  
face swingeing fines.

Martell, founded by the  
English wine-merchant John  
Martell in 1715, has taken the  
lead in financing urgent re-  
search into the pathology of  
the disease. In 1990, M.  
Raguenaud linked up with  
the French National School of  
Agronomy in Toulouse to fund  
the world's first



Raguenaud: confident

but which, when distilled and  
aged in oak barrels, became  
the world's most celebrated  
brandy.

For M. Raguenaud, a mas-  
ter taster descended from  
generations of Cognac mak-  
ers who also farms his own  
vineyard of Ugni Blanc, the  
microscopic killer fungus is  
nothing less than a threat to a  
way of life that is close to a  
religion.

Back at Martell's elegant  
château headquarters, M.  
Raguenaud insists that mod-  
ern science will find a way to  
thwart "this horrible mush-  
room". As he sips an amber  
Cognac made from grapes  
picked in 1988 and bottled on  
the eve of the First World  
War, M. Raguenaud is confi-  
dent that time is on his side.

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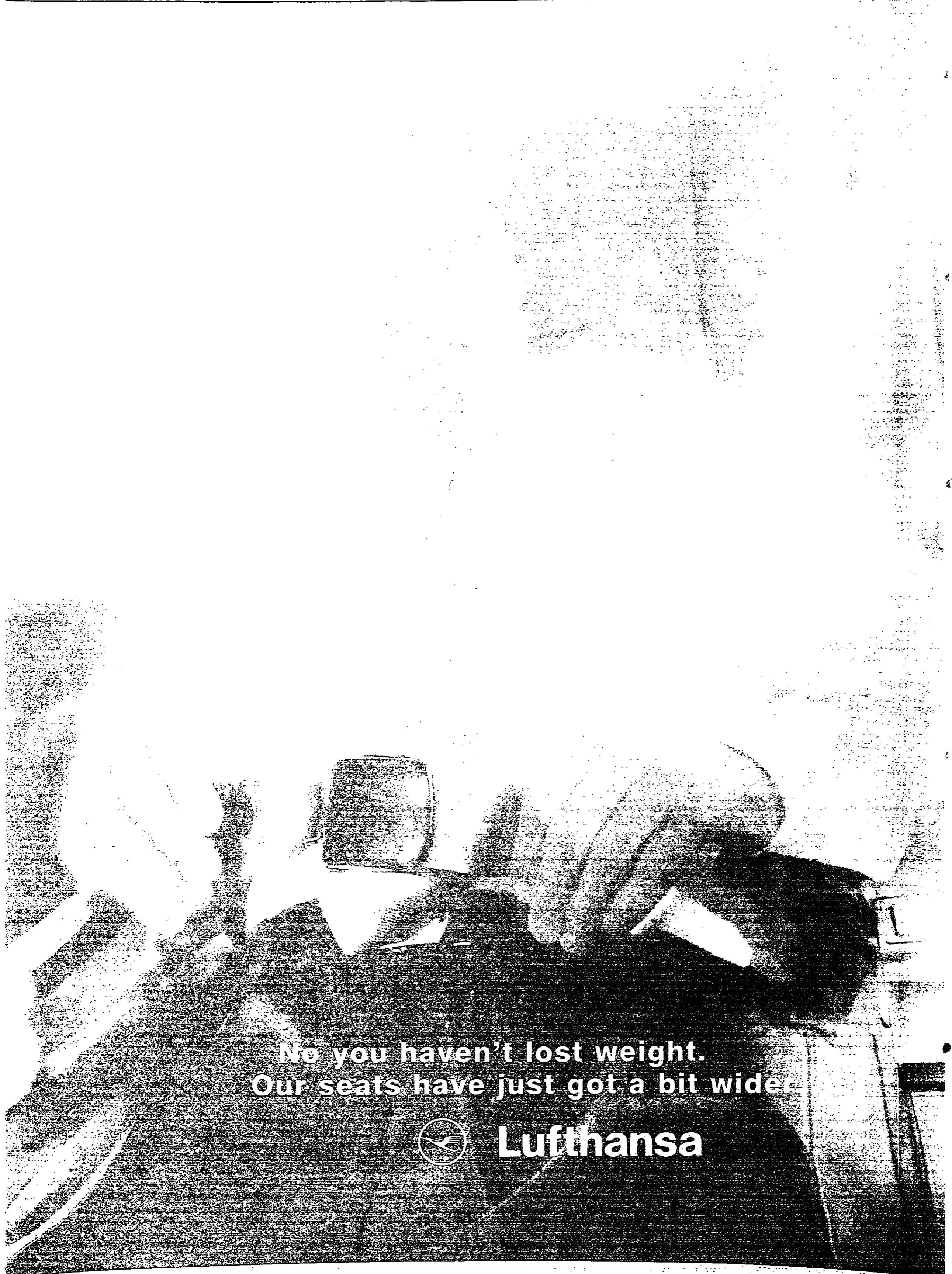
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Stallone's  
baby has  
hole in heart

Actor Sylvester Stallone's son, Sage, has been diagnosed with a hole in his heart, according to a spokesman for the actor's wife, Jennifer Flavin. The hole, called a ventricular septal defect, was discovered during a routine check-up on Friday 22 October. Jennifer, 31, and Sylvester, 45, have two other sons, Sage, 18 months, and Jake, 10.

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EXCERPT FROM THE TIMES



## Hardline settlers plan takeover of Palestinian homes

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MILITANT Jewish settlers in Hebron yesterday announced plans to take over and occupy more than 30 additional houses in the Arab-populated central market area as soon as an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank city is agreed.

The plans of the 450 Jews who already live among 12,000 hostile Palestinians in three enclaves in the city centre were revealed to Israel radio by Noam Arnon, their spokesman. Palestinians predicted that the planned protest would immediately lead to violent clashes between the settlers and Palestinian civilians and the 400 uniformed PLO policemen due to take control in the 85 per cent of the city scheduled to be taken over by the Palestinians.

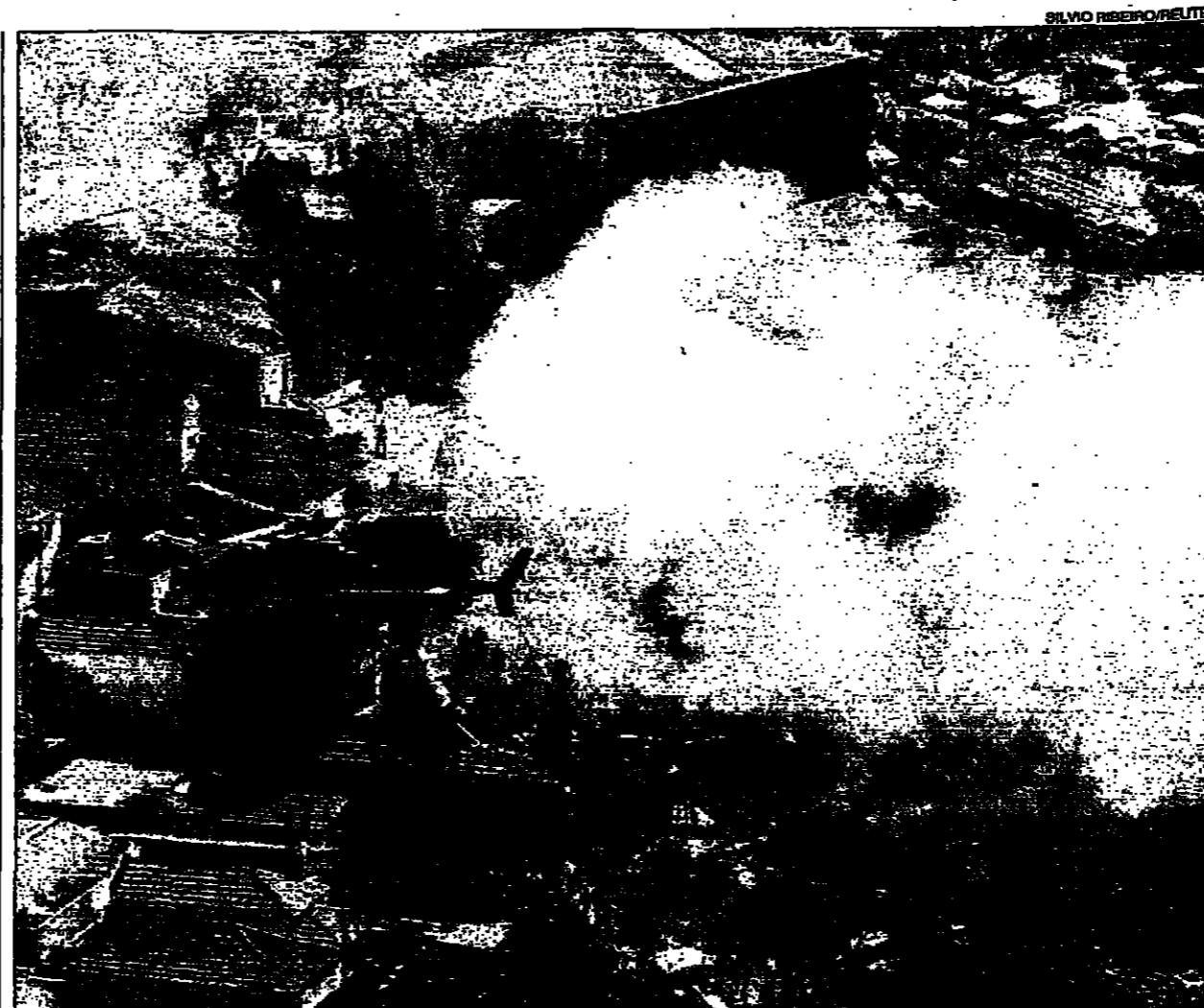
Mr Arnon, who is also one of the leaders of the newly formed and heavily armed settlers' militia, said that Jewish residents had already been found who were prepared to take over the buildings "with-

in hours of receiving instructions to do so". The new threat, which observers fear might provoke Arab-Israeli violence that could spread to the rest of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, was described as illegal by the Israeli Government and disowned by the central Yeshua Council, representing most of the Jewish settlers.

There was panic in Hebron shortly before noon yesterday when Israeli Army radio in-

### Bodyguards face execution

Gaza City: A military tribunal has sentenced three Palestinian bodyguards to death by firing squad for the murder of a driving instructor. They will be executed on Tuesday unless Dennis Ross, the chief US envoy, has said he will not return to the region until after the US presidential election next Tuesday.



A helicopter flies over the burning area of São Paulo where an airliner crashed after taking off for Rio de Janeiro

Toll rises after jet crashes in São Paulo

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SÃO PAULO

A BRAZILIAN airliner crashed into a residential neighbourhood in São Paulo shortly after take-off yesterday, engulfing apartments, homes and cars in a river of fire from burning fuel.

All 95 people aboard were reported to have been killed. Three other bodies were pulled from the rubble, and the death toll was expected to rise. One resident of the middle-class area said he saw "a river of fuel on fire flowing down the street".

Dozens of bodies covered with black plastic lay by the roadside as firemen sprayed water on smoking rubble. Pieces of the twin-engined Fokker 100 jet, which had been on a domestic flight to Rio de Janeiro, were strewn about and cars were on fire.

Police and firefighters used plywood planks as makeshift stretchers to carry bodies to black mortuary lorries which shuffled to and from the area as smoke continued to pour into the sky.

Taleban lost ground eight-m

FROM AP/WIDEWORLD

The Taleban lost ground in the north of Afghanistan yesterday, but held onto the south.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 17

# Taleban battles for lost ground along eight-mile front

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN HUSSEINI KOT

**HEAVY** fighting erupted across an eight-mile front north of Kabul early yesterday as forces loyal to the former Afghan Government beat back Taleban dawn offensive aimed at recapturing ground lost this week.

General Ahmed Shah Masood, the ousted Defence Minister, ordered a massive retaliation along the two roads into Kabul after learning of Taleban raids into government-held areas. War planes belonging to General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern warlord, pounded Taleban artillery and tank positions along the New Road up to the strategic Dehsarz Pass.

The air bombardment was backed up by General Dostum's tanks on the New Road, and General Masood's rocket launchers and artillery, firing to the northeast and northwest on to the city's two key approaches.

Zemah, in a valley between two mountain ranges on the

mud-walled fortress. A nearby nest of rocket launchers fired salvo after salvo into the hills as radio operators screamed obscenities at the distant Taleban militiamen.

Further north along General Masood's front line, the scene was more chaotic. His men had pushed north of Husseini Kot and into the Taleban village of Shakardara five miles away.

Wild-eyed, sweating and high on hashish, they were jubilant at having taken out three Taleban tanks. A few danced, holding high captured cannon and light machineguns. During the nerve-racking half-hour walk to the front line through decimated vineyards, Taleban fighters continued to harass the advance of General Masood's forces from Husseini Kot.

As dusk fell, the men bedded down after preparing for the Taleban counter-offensive that was to come.



Dr Abdullah Karimi weeps beside his son Asaad, seven, killed in a bomb attack

## Mafia gunmen kidnap Venice Deputy Mayor

FROM RICHARD OWEN



**THE** Mayor of Venice, Massimo Cacciari, yesterday vowed to step up the fight against organised crime in the area after his deputy, Gianfranco Bettin, was kidnapped by Mafia gangsters. Signor Bettin was held for several hours and subjected to a mock "execution" by masked gunmen because of his high-profile role in trying to root out drug dealers.

Signor Cacciari, and the Patriarch of Venice, Cardinal Marco Cè, yesterday led a mass protest in the suburb of Marghera against "drugs, crime and prostitution" after the kidnapping. "This is the other face of Venice," said *La Repubblica*. "This is not the Venice the tourists see. This is the Venice of heroin addicts and drug pushers, not the Venice of Flora's Cafè and St Mark's Square."

## Hashimoto is forced into shaky coalition

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

**JAPAN'S** Liberal Democrats led by Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, will have to form a new Government next week without their present coalition partners, the Social Democratic Party and the Sakigake Party which yesterday pledged to co-operate only on specific policies.

Under a new agreement, the three parties will work together to promote legislation of mutual concern such as pruning Japan's bloated bureaucracy, reducing the powers of the Finance Ministry and introducing an insurance system for the elderly. But the two minor parties have said they will not participate in the Cabinet expected to be formed after the re-election of Mr Hashimoto as Prime Minister on November 7.

After its re-selection success, the Liberal Democratic Party remained by far the biggest

party, but fell tantalisingly short of a simple majority in the lower house. Though anxious to have the continued support of the Social Democrats to help him to govern, Mr Hashimoto could not agree to several of their tougher demands. As a condition of remaining in the alliance, the Social Democrats sought a ban on corporate political donation, reduction and eventual withdrawal of American Marines from Okinawa and a cut in the defence budget.

Political analysts said the new arrangement is a shaky basis on which to build the second Hashimoto Government and likely to lead to instability and impermanence. Aware of the risk, the Liberal Democrats are searching for other coalition partners or defectors from opposition parties to boost their parliamentary strength.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

# BAD RECEPTION



Television has lost its patience with serious art programmes, says Robert Hughes. The Culture, this Sunday

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## Children die as random bombs fall on Kabul

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

**THE** Karimi family were having bread and tea for breakfast at 6am yesterday from injuries in the Jamshir hospital where he normally works. Before Kabul University closed recently — most of the teachers were women, now banned from working outside the home — he was a lecturer in the faculty of medicine.

His daughter Manila, 16, and son Asaad, seven, were killed. Abuid, 12, is also in Jamshir hospital. Their mother and brother, Zabi, nine, survived. He sat alone on rubble yesterday, watching 30 men returning from burying his siblings and the third victim, Abdul Matain, in open ground. Nobody spoke to him, and he said nothing.

The two bombing runs made Taleban artillery and anti-aircraft gunners nervous throughout the day. They filled the city repeatedly with the sounds of gunfire, spreading tension. United Nations officials estimate 500 people a day are leaving Kabul, and the pace is increasing.

Dr Abdullah Karimi is a

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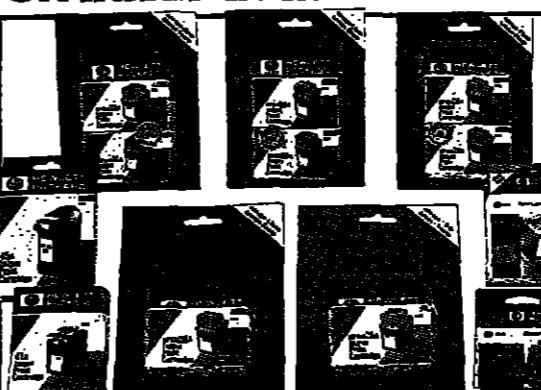
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Chris Woodhead gets irritated at being portrayed as a poodle of the Conservative Government. With three years to run on his contract he realises he could be removed by a future Labour administration but he would want to know why

## 'Literacy is everything'

**A**s a disruptive pupil forces the closure of a school, and caning is back on the agenda, the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, says an ordered start to school life makes all the difference

**O**ne disruptive ten-year-old closes down a school. Her Majesty's inspectors march into The Ridings School. "Morality" is foisted on to the curriculum. Some say bring back the cane. Bring back *Janet and John*.

With blackboards and chalk everywhere, I call at Ofsted to see Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools. Chris Woodhead is more forthcoming and high-profile than his predecessors: tall, lean, and amazingly relaxed for one in such a hot seat.

He has just passed his 50th birthday, a milestone he spent rock-climbing on a Cornish cliff face called Suicide Wall. "I had to be hauled up on to a ledge by David Hopkins, Professor of Education at Nottingham. I was sweating, terrified, in desperate straits, and so relieved to get down. And there at the bottom was a group of bloody teachers from Dorset, highly amused."

Woodhead is no longer the figure of those sweeping protestations. To be "Ofstedised" is fear - and - learning. Teachers are unmetalled by inspectors' "sharpshooter" scrutiny of their work, and in his outspoken reports. Yesterday, on Radio 4, Professor Carol FitzGibbon called the inspectors (they include Gillian Sheppard's headmaster, husband) subjective, untrained, and inconsistent. "Leading figures in the educational establishment," Woodhead says, "seem deeply opposed to Ofsted's work, for reasons I cannot understand."

Perhaps it is the fact that Woodhead echoes most parents' sentiments. We all know - and revere - good teaching when we see it. Communicating enthusiasm is what it is all about, as Woodhead knows. He recently wrote to his old history master, Peter Teed, in gratitude and affection. "I thought I was one of your 15,000," replied Mr Teed. "The number of incompetent teachers who, Woodhead famously said, should be sacked.

"Our inspections make it perfectly plain that some teachers are more effective than others. We want to reward excellence, and weed out the ones who can't spell, can't teach, can't discipline children." But Woodhead says few heads give performance pay. "The culture of education is not enthusiastic about this."

**H**e says he could see things going badly wrong in the mid-Seventies. Children were expected to "discover" reading by a kind of osmosis; spelling tests were frowned upon. Alarm bells rang for me in 1980 when I walked into our local primary school where a flashcard "television" (sic) was taped on the wall, and the headmaster's filing cabinet was labelled

administration ladder. His daughter (he is divorced) went to a comprehensive school and is about to start teaching in Botswana.

Woodhead, an admirer of George Walden's and Melanie Phillips' excellent critiques of what has gone wrong in education, favours whole-class teaching, grouping by ability, and the belief that class size is less important than the quality of teaching.

One of Ofsted's reports on a teacher-training college found that "few students had more than a superficial understanding of how to teach reading" and that "so uncertain was their grasp of the basic structure of English" that they could not correct pupils' writing.

All I can say in my own words is that

### THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



expelling the unteachable, a luxury long enjoyed by independent schools? To exclude a child, as Woodhead points out, was once regarded as an admission of failure. But one London sink school, turned around by an effective new headmaster featured on Radio 4's Midweek this week, made 150 exclusions last year, 35 of them permanent. What happens to these youths? "Many

of them simply fall through the net," Woodhead says.

"Some go to pupil referral units, but there aren't enough of them and they aren't good enough. It is a pressing issue." Meanwhile Matthew Wilson, the contentious 10-year-old who has closed his school, says (with an admirable command of grammar) "I just want to go back to school and get a good education. I am no

different from any other child."

An Oxford don once wrote about a student who, in an essay on 17th Century pastoral poetry, spelt it "pastrol" throughout. He explained that it was not a lubricating oil, but the adjective from *pastor* (Latin: a shepherd). She looked at him wide-eyed and said: "Does it matter?" The "so what?" attitude to literacy

dates from her earliest schooldays. Why did the Tories not get their educational act together 17 years ago?

Could it be because so few had children in state schools?

Woodhead, two years into his five-year contract at £82,000 a year, knows he could be removed by a Labour administration, but the Queen would have to be consulted, and he would like to know

why. "Mr Blunkett's views on education do not seem to be very different from my own; indeed, they seem to be rooted in the evidence that Ofsted presents. The principle of inspection is totally accepted."

Woodhead does not see teachers as demoralised victims: most of them remain exuberant, in a deeply satisfying job. "Let's keep the headline-grabbing stuff in perspective. Most schools are perfectly orderly places. There is not a Blackboard Jungle out there." There is, however, a treacherous cliff face.

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Food for thought

T1 39

### POETRY AND REMEMBRANCE

Starting in *The Times* on Monday the Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP's selection of war poems from his new anthology *The Faber Book of War Poetry*

# Are we on the brink of the Clarke boom?

Interest rates must rise further to curb inflation, says Tim Congdon, one of the Chancellor's 'wise men'

**T**HE four years since sterling's expulsion from the European exchange-rate mechanism on September 16, 1992, have been good for the British economy. Growth has been continuous, unemployment has fallen steadily and inflation has been about 3 per cent a year or less.

After years of volatile inflation, Britain seems to have secured financial stability. But how permanent are the gains? Unhappily, a strong case can be made that the new-found stability is in jeopardy.

The central point is that the growth of the money supply has accelerated. The broad measure of money known as M4 increased in the three-and-a-half years to the end of 1994 at about 5 per cent a year, the longest period of monetary growth at such a low rate since the 1950s. The four years of moderate inflation are the reward for that restraint.

But since early 1995 monetary growth has risen to 10 per cent a year. As in previous episodes of monetary relaxation, the economy's initial response has been welcoming. The excess of money has been concentrated in the financial sector, where the money holdings of insurance companies and pension funds have been soaring by more than 20 per cent a year.

As the stocks of tangible capital assets (buildings, factories, and so on) in the economy cannot expand at even a quarter of that rate, asset prices (such as houses) have surged, echoing similar asset price movements in the early phase of the Lawson boom ten years ago.

The rich are doing particularly well. Unsurprisingly, there has been a great deal more spending by the sort of people who own shares and London houses. A boom in eating out has stimulated the brewing giants to pay fancy prices to acquire chains of restaurants.

The occupancy rates of London hotels are back to the peak levels of the late 1980s and hotel valuations have soared. Meanwhile sales of luxury cars and exotic holidays are far ahead of expected levels. Bliss was it in that sunset of Conservative rule to be alive, but to be rich was very heaven.

But it is not only the rich who are feeling good. In the three months to August retail sales nationally increased by 1.8 per cent. If that were to continue for a year, it would translate into a rise of almost 7.5 per cent, the most spectacular growth since the late 1980s. Consumer spending is now rising at more than 4 per cent per annum.

So far in 1996 an upturn in consumer spending has not led to a wider boom, because many companies started the year with excess stocks of unsold goods. They could meet higher sales by running their stocks down. But that process is coming to an end.

There is a good chance that by early 1997, a very different situation will have emerged. Consumer spending may keep growing at 4 per cent a year, while manufacturers have to step up production to eliminate shortages of stocks. If so, the growth in output would run at 4 or 5 per cent a year, which would qualify as full-scale boom.

Many of the Government's supporters will celebrate the re-emergence of the "feel-good" factor, turned to perfection in the run up to the general election. Kenneth Clarke appears to have been a master of economic stage management. But are memories so short? The economic upswing in the final year of Mr Clarke's Chancellorship will not be on the same scale as the notorious booms associated with

three of his Conservative predecessors: Maudling, Barber, and Lawson. But is already very similar in its general character. By April or May next the resemblance should be obvious to all.

It is the same old game of electioneering-cum-inflationeering which Sir Keith (later Lord) Joseph attacked in his famous Preston speech of 1974, the speech which is supposed to have started monetarism (and indeed Thatcherism) as a political movement. In his words, "when the money supply grows too quickly, inflation results. This has been known for centuries".

But the financial press and the chattering classes have other subjects to discuss, such as the hypothetical new single European currency. There is an almost total indifference to the mismanagement of the pound sterling, the old and well established currency that we actually have. This indifference is particularly notable at the so-called "leading economic forecasting bodies": the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and the London Business School.

With the exception of the author of this article, no member of the Treasury Panel of "wise persons" has warned that the increase in monetary growth is relevant to the medium-term prospects for inflation.

Professor Patrick Minford has, in fact, explicitly denied that faster growth in broad money will lead to higher inflation. In effect, almost nothing remains in Whitehall and Britain's universities of the monetarism which was supposed to be the essence of the present Government's approach to curbing inflation.

What is to be done? In terms of policy instruments, interest rates should be raised. The increase in base rates on Wednesday from 5.75 to 6 per cent was a move in the right direction, but it was too small to alter the macroeconomic environment in a fundamental way.

At this early stage in the cycle, while inflation expectations are still quite weak, an increase in base rate, say, 7 per cent might be enough, once again, to dampen money supply growth to an acceptable 5 per cent-a-year figure. But the longer action is postponed, the more entrenched will inflation expectations become; and the more entrenched are inflation expectations, the higher will interest rates have to go eventually.

Of course, that is an old gramophone record, even if it is a gramophone record which deserves to be played time and time again. The new and more disturbing message from the latest episode of monetary expansionism is the failure of the changes that followed the debacle of September 16, 1992. In theory, power was to be shifted from the politically motivated Chancellor of the Exchequer to the politically neutral Governor of the Bank of England. The key innovation was the publication of the minutes of their monthly meetings.

It is now clear that the meetings-and-minutes framework is failing. The ultimate power over interest rates still lies with the Chancellor. For him, short-term political advantage must have a higher priority than medium-term financial stability. The right answer is to give full operational independence — including the power to set interest rates — to the Bank of England.

The author is managing director of Lombard Street Research Ltd, the economics consultancy.



Philip Howard



■ Fragment of an unknown dialogue, the Crisis ...

Nicholas: But how shall we teach our children virtue, O Socrates? Socrates: People have been asking me that question for 25 centuries, O Sophist of the Curriculum. And of course this is the most important of all questions for a civil society. A predecessor of yours called Protagoras claimed that he could teach young men to be good citizens. But I have always doubted whether civic virtue can be taught. For there are specialists in all other skills from creative accountancy to parliamentary lobbying. If we wish to learn about such activities, we consult those who know the speciality. But in matters of government, every citizen is entitled to his voice, both in the public opinion poll and the phone-in and the saloon bar. And once every five years in the polling booth. So it follows that no one regards civic virtue as something that can be taught. Also virtuous men quite often have vicious sons. If the best citizens cannot hand on their virtues to their own sons, then virtue itself must be unteachable.

Lady Olga Xanthippe: Balderdash and Poppycock, Socrates. And what about the daughters? Children should be nurtured in virtue with a stable home environment, with both mother and father present in an official marriage relationship. They should be taught grammar and spelling from an early age. And if they make any mistakes through either ignorance or perversity or viciousness, they should be soundly beaten.

Socrates: O Lady Olga, I knew another Xanthippe who also used to give me a hard time with her harsh views, shrill voice and loud scolding within my own home environment. I found that I kept our marriage relationship most stable if I got out of the house as soon as the owl on the Acropolis hooted, and spent the rest of the day debating and dinning out with the young men about town.

Nicholas: But surely the state should lay down wishy-washy compulsory targets for morality and core values, so that its young people learn what is expected of them in the society in which they happen to be born? For how else will they know what virtue means?

Socrates: Moral rules may sometimes work in a small, monolithic polis such as my ancient Athens. For there we excluded from our social contract all such disruptive influences as slaves, strangers and women. But even then we disagreed about our values. You remember the bitter end I came to, allegedly for "corrupting the youth" and teaching them the wrong moral curriculum. In fact, I was condemned as a prominent example for having taken the wrong (right-wing) side in a civil war. For even in my little Athens, we could not agree on a definition of civic virtue. After all, we were Greeks, and therefore we could on principle agree on nothing.

Nicholas: But surely it could do no harm if our children were to learn by heart the core values of our society. General ethical statements such as: "We value the natural world as a source of wonder and inspiration, and accept our duty to maintain a sustainable environment for the future."

Socrates: Learning by heart the sacred texts of the tribe, provided you can agree what they are, is good training in knowledge (and therefore virtue) for the young. But I prefer the English of your older Catechism of 1662, which starts "What is your Name?" N. or M. It must have been written by a more united and eloquent forum than yours. That old moralist Moses, who may have been a contemporary of Homer, got into great difficulties with his moral codes. When he came down from Mount Sinai with his core moral values on tables of stone, he told the waiting Israelites: "The good news is that I have negotiated the ethical commandments down to ten. The bad news is that adultery is still one of them."

Lady Olga Xanthippe: Morality and family values should be part of the national curriculum. Socrates: So far as it can be taught, virtue is best taught by example, by parents and by good teachers, not by politicians fighting an election campaign. We know no spectacle so ridiculous as the British public in one of its periodical fits of morality. And how would you set your examination in morality, apart from the course work?

1. Can you tell the difference between virtue and vice? a) Yes b) No c) It depends what you mean by morality. 2. Have you told the truth in the above question? a) No b) No comment c) Mind your own business, or I'll thump you and then sue you. It would be more farcical than your old Sunday Schools, where at least the children learnt good English and were taught exciting stories, and collected pretty stamps. For this question of how to teach morals is a very old debate. No society has ever got it right. Only an enthusiast or a madman would expect to solve it finally, even.

THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1 1996

CORKS ON

The Government has

announced a

series of cutbacks

in its budget

for the year

beginning in April

which will affect

the public sector

and the private

sector

and the public



## CORKS ON A CHOPPY SEA

The Government has to regain a sense of direction

If there is one pattern discernible from the past four years of this Administration, it is that each small sign of political recovery is rapidly followed by a setback. So it has been this month: a relatively united and successful Tory party conference has already been eclipsed by a fortnight of confusion. The result, as our MORI poll yesterday and today have shown, is a poll lead for Labour that is widening just as the Conservatives need it to narrow.

Ever since Frances Lawrence launched her manifesto, the Tories have been pushed onto areas where they struggle for advantage: they have gone "off-message", as the professionals like to put it. Labour, whose representatives run most of the country's rioting town halls and education authorities, may not be better in practice at answering the Lawrence call; but the public has heard Tony Blair's speeches about healing Britain's fractured society and is no longer afraid of the Opposition as it was. The Government, struggling to disassociate itself from rioting schools and murderous housing estates, has been forced into a series of "defensive" and sometimes indefensible positions. Labour taunts of weakness and drift have a cruel ring of truth.

Our poll today shows that, by a margin of 2.5 to 1, voters think that Labour is the party most likely to put Mrs Lawrence's manifesto into effect. Barely more than half of Tory supporters (and they are themselves thin on the ground) believe that their own party is the best to oversee this moral renewal. For the first time in memory, law and order has become the most important concern for voters. How extraordinary that this issue, so dear to the heart of the Tory party, should have become an Opposition donnée.

This is not the only issue on which the Conservative message is uncertain. On beef, the Government appears to be floundering; it was impossible to make head or tail of John Major's answers in the Commons yesterday. Only the economy is in the Tories' favour, and even that is not wholly positive.

## CLINTON AND CAPITOL HILL

A Republican Congress would balance a re-elected President

Americans seem set to give Bill Clinton a second term in their elections this Tuesday. That much has been probable for some time. The matter of real tension concerns the control of Congress. It is possible that a Clinton landslide might deliver Capitol Hill to the Democratic Party, and against this, according to opinion surveys, is the longstanding reluctance of voters to vest complete power in the hands of any one party.

Given the widespread complaint that the US political system is prone to "gridlock"—political impasse caused by the failure of the electorate to award authority to one source—such caution might seem curious. This year, it is unusually well founded. Not only would the interests of the American people be served by divided political spoils, that outcome would bring a more constructive four years for Bill Clinton himself.

The astonishing recovery of the President since 1994 has been based on his rediscovery of the "New Democrat" credentials upon which he was elected in 1992 but which he appeared to abandon almost the instant he entered office. This year Mr Clinton has had a consistently populist message, favouring deficit reduction, a middle-class tax cut and a host of socially conservative programmes. While this switch has been shaped by an appreciation of the limitations on presidential power, it has also been influenced by an acute awareness of American public sentiment.

No President has read the polls better than this one. His electorate favours a constrained conservatism, supporting the general direction of policy that Republicans have brought to Washington over the last two years but without the hectic tempo and revolutionary rhetoric of Newt Gingrich and his vanguard. This the White House has

with this week's interest rate rise presaging more to come.

Some Conservatives believe that a continuing economic recovery, linked to the fear that Labour would ruin it, is the single pillar around which the Tories can bolster their election chances. It is, indeed, their best prospect. But, with moral issues circling in the air, there are also extra dangers. When voters feel prosperous, they can concentrate on other "quality of life" issues, such as the environment or the social order. Every Labour victory has occurred when growth was high and unemployment falling.

Tory unity remains a politicians' precondition of recovery. The true over Europe has lasted now for a month or two but remains fragile. The stronger the position of the Chancellor the more likely he is to drive his opponents on Europe to dissent. Labour disunity would help the Conservatives to improve their ratings, but since the party conference, the rebels on that side have not obliged. Labour's will to win is probably still greater than that of the Tories; and there is no divisive issue that runs as deep through the Opposition as Europe does through the governing party.

The last hope for the Tories is that the polls are wrong. It is certainly true that national opinion polls are registering a Labour lead some ten points larger than that shown on the ground in local by-election results. Over the past two years they have consistently shown Labour at about 44 per cent and the Conservatives at 31 per cent. That gap is still large, but it is not as daunting as the "protest-vote"-inflated opinion polls.

The gap can be closed only if the Government rediscovers a sense of direction. At the moment, Mr Major and his ministers are like corks bobbing on a choppy sea. It is no wonder that Labour has taken advantage of government disarray, or that the public is inclined to reward the Opposition. The prospect of a Tory victory at the next election is thin and growing thinner.

*Except in the unlikely event of a reform of the EU, withdrawal from the CFP seems Britain's only sensible option.*

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY QUICK,  
Corbin, Scorton,  
Buckfastleigh, South Devon.  
October 29.

## Future of fishing fleets of Europe

From Mr Anthony Quick

Sir, Mrs Emma Bonino (letter, October 28) has an impossible task as European Commissioner for Fisheries. She cannot admit that the main cause of the fishing crisis in Western Europe is the common fisheries policy itself.

The EU has been unable to adapt itself to the enormous changes in the international law of the sea since the Treaty of Rome. At the time of its signing fishing zones had hardly extended beyond the old three-mile limit. The new EEZs (exclusive economic zones) extend to 200 miles and include fishing rights, giving far more extensive rights to coastal states with large EEZs. By its parochial and obsolete stance the EU has not yet acknowledged this.

A multi-purpose body like the EU is unfitted to administer fishing policy. Only five EU states have a legitimate interest in Atlantic fishing policy; yet 15 have a vote. That Austria and Luxembourg, both landlocked states, should have an equal say with Britain, France and Spain is a patent absurdity.

Moreover, in the Brussels bazaar, fishing issues are decided on irrelevant considerations. For instance, the entry of Spanish ships into the Irish Sea turned on the accession treaties for Austria, Finland and Sweden.

The EU's fishing policies have been particularly inept. Initially it encouraged a large expansion in the EU fishing fleet, and its current policy of trying to force fishermen to throw fish back into the sea is unworkable and wrong-headed.

No wonder that those European countries which have good fishing grounds and value their fishing industry—Iceland, Norway, Faeroes and Greenland—have stayed outside the common fisheries policy or withdrawn from it. As a result their fishing has been far better managed than that of the EU.

*Except in the unlikely event of a reform of the EU, withdrawal from the CFP seems Britain's only sensible option.*

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY QUICK,  
Corbin, Scorton,  
Buckfastleigh, South Devon.  
October 29.

## Prescott complaint

From Sir Stanley Kalmus  
Chairman of Dixons Group plc

Sir, On October 30 I agreed to a request from the BBC Six O'Clock News team to give an interview on the likely effects on the retail industry of the Chancellor's decision to raise interest rates. I was invited to do so as Chairman of Dixons Group plc, the leading electrical retailer and FTSE 100 company. As a businessman of many years' standing I contributed an independent assessment of the economic situation. My comments were subsequently used in the programme.

I am outraged to learn that John Prescott, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, has condemned the BBC for interviewing me on the grounds that my assessment of the economy was positive. According to Mr Prescott, I am a "Tory Party placeman". On the contrary, I speak as a businessman, I am not a politician.

The sinister implication of Mr Prescott's action is clear. For the Labour Party to seek to gag me, simply because I do not endorse their policies, is profoundly disturbing. To attempt to blacklist a private citizen smacks of totalitarianism. It suggests that any future Labour government would aim to censor the media in a quite unprecedented manner.

Do new Labour keep an "enemies list"? If so, which names are on it besides my own?

Yours faithfully,  
STANLEY KALMUS,  
Chairman,  
Dixons Group plc,  
29 Farm Street, W1.  
October 31.

## No kids, no rage?

From Mrs Pamela Morgan

Sir, Last week I drove happily to and from work each day without the harassment and aggression that I usually encounter. Do you think that this absence of road rage could be linked to the half-term break?

Yours (registration number withheld),  
PAMELA MORGAN,  
9 Winterstoke Gardens,  
Mill Hill, NW7.  
October 28.

## Polonius updated

From Lieutenant-Colonel  
Malcolm Cooper

Sir, Neither a borrower nor a lender be, except with a building society going public (report, October 29).

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
MALCOLM COOPER,  
Mount Pleasant, Church Street,  
Ropley, Alresford, Hampshire.  
October 29.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Law and order legislation and a moral code for schools

From Mr David Farrer, QC

Sir, The populist auction in "law and order" legislation — now engaging Government and Opposition alike — promises a fitting culmination to the disastrous sequence of instant law-making of the last five years. Jack Straw is clearly determined to match Michael Howard in placating whatever whim possesses tomorrow's tabloid leaderwriter and it seems that no voter-friendly enactment will receive proper scrutiny, however daft, ill-drafted or plain illiberal it may be.

"Stalking" can of course be gravely damaging; but there is no evidence that it is any more an epidemic today than five years ago. If a new offence is to be created, it needs very careful drafting and scrutiny, lest injustice be done.

Frances Lawrence's tragedy and her moving testament have rightly moved the nation. Yet the indiscriminate use of knives, with similarly disastrous consequences, has occupied the courts daily throughout the Thatcher and Major eras. Workable legislation is not something to be passed on the nod for alienating the voter.

Minimum sentences, especially for repeating violent and sexual offenders, raise fundamentally important practical and ethical questions which cannot be dodged simply by treating a life sentence as though it were just a flexible friend for the executive rather than, as in the offender's eyes, the ultimate punishment.

Many of those who prosecute or represent such people must readily bring to mind examples of men who would kill their victims if their detection meant a life sentence anyway. The subtleties of determining its length are liable to escape them.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID FARRER,  
9 Bedford Row, WC1.  
October 31.

From the Bishop of Chelmsford

Sir, It is a cause for considerable regret that any explicit references to marriage are omitted from an other-

wise admirable moral code for schools proposed in the report of the National Forum for Values in Education and the Community (report, October 29 and 31).

It is important to commend marriage strongly to children if we are to counter the growth of one-parent families in the next generation. It is my experience that few single parents would choose to be without a partner to share in the responsibilities and privileges of parenthood.

The five dissenters from the report are to be commended for their distinctive contribution. It is to be hoped that the main thrust of their proposal that "the family is the basic unit of social life and entering into marriage and raising a family includes passing on spiritual, moral and cultural values" will yet find a place in any statement of shared values to be sent out to schools.

A positive and sensitive affirmation of marriage and the nuclear family is urgently needed for our next generation of parents.

Yours faithfully,  
T.JOHNSON HELMSFORD,  
Bishopscourt,  
Margareting, Ingateshore, Essex.  
October 31.

From Mr John Hartley

Sir, "A statement of shared values for children to learn by heart": really?

Self: "a unique being of intrinsic worth".

Relationships: "relationships as fundamental to our development".

Society: "collective endeavour for the common good".

Environment: "a source of wonder and inspiration".

I am not sure if I know what some of these words mean — but then I am only 75.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HARTLEY,  
Lower Clatcombe House,  
Sherborne, Dorset.  
October 30.

From Mr Michael Graham-Jones

Sir, Concerning values and principles in education and society, readers may like to know that Christian Action, the association founded by Canon John Collins to promote the application of Christian principles in national affairs, plans shortly to celebrate its 50th anniversary by closing down.

Some of its few surviving members find this astonishing.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL GRAHAM-JONES,  
The Limes, Standlake, Oxfordshire.  
October 31.

### Updated 'Fowler'

From Mrs Alyson Wilson

Sir, Philip Howard ("A jubilee for writers", October 28) comments that "Fowler annoyed the crusties by refusing to shoot some of their bêtes noires" whereas "Burchfield is going to annoy them more by producing quotations demonstrating that the best writers have ridden their bêtes noires through their dearest taboos". Does this, I wonder, imply that Burchfield contradicts Fowler's entry under *bête noire*: "Those who wish to use the phrase in writing must not suppose ... that the gender can be varied"?

Among the best commanders I served were Royal Marines officers. Why should they be excluded from the CDS post? Moreover, as a former RAF officer, why does the Chief of the Air Staff always have to be a pilot? There are too many illogicalities in current military practice.

The CDS appointment requires strong leadership and unlimited wisdom. Let's get the "best" man into the job, elected by his peers. Who really cares about the colour of the uniform, whether he wears wings or not, if he's a hunting man, or anything else?

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP CONGDON  
(Defence consultant),  
4 Hinckley Fold Lane, Great Harwood,  
Blackburn, Lancashire.  
October 23.

### Best kept secret?

From Sir Humphry Wakefield

Sir, While kindly using my beautiful white cows, avenue and bronze equestrian statue to illustrate your report (Travel News, October 17) on the launch of the "Secret Kingdom" campaign, your correspondent writes that we intend "to make north Northumberland as popular with tourists as the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales".

No sir! As loved but never, ever, so popular please.

Yours etc,  
HUMPHRY WAKEFIELD,  
Chillingham Castle,  
Chillingham, Northumberland.  
October 27.

### Monkey business

From Professor A. Peter Fawcett

Sir, Is the Church of England's memorial service for a deceased monkey in Chester-le-Street, Co Durham (report, October 25), merely a belated act of contrition? In 1805, the ever-vigilant citizens of nearby West Hartlepool hanged a monkey on the grounds of being a suspected French spy.

Natural gas may be the most efficient and economic fuel for generating power in the short term, but cheap gas supplies are limited and recent techniques for gasifying coal and oil in medium-sized plants show that power can be generated cleanly even from dirty fuels.

Let us site our power stations in the most suitable places, maximise their efficiency and minimise the need for transmission lines. Then we can decide whether we can afford to bury the lines in sensitive areas or, with luck, scrap some of them.

Yours faithfully,  
A. PETER FAWCETT,  
78 Park Road, Chilwell, Nottingham.  
October 29.

### Horse sense

From Mr Gerald Vinestock

Sir, Only two thirds of the racehorses selected as losers by Australian scientist duly lost (report, October 31); I can do better than that without the aid of science.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD VINESTOCK,  
2 Overhead Cottages,  
Caperoway, Carnforth, Lancashire.  
October 31.





# THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1 1996

## NEWS

### School shut after attacks on teachers

The troubled Ridings School in Halifax was closed after a French mistress was sexually molested by pupils and two male teachers were assaulted. It was the second school to be shut this week because of unruly pupils.

The closure of the Ridings, where teachers have voted unanimously to strike unless 61 pupils are expelled, came 24 hours after inspectors had told the Education Secretary that the school was at risk of getting out of control. Pages 1, 19, 38

### Police win Hillsborough appeal

Four police officers who suffered mental trauma after the Hillsborough stadium disaster in 1989 won their fight for compensation. In a landmark judgment, the Court of Appeal ruled that they had been exposed by the negligence of South Yorkshire Police to "excessively horrific events". Page 1

### Moral lead for Labour

Labour has taken a clear lead over the Conservatives in the new battle for the moral high ground in politics, according to a MORI poll. Page 1, 11, 21

### Danes bar Rushdie

The Danish Government has told Salman Rushdie that he cannot attend an awards ceremony in Copenhagen. Pages 1, 21

### Healey attacks Brown

Lord Healey, Labour's last Chancellor of the Exchequer, accused Gordon Brown of having "no government experience whatsoever" and criticised his caution on tax and spending. Page 2

### Major's sore point

The teacher who caned John Major said that he could not understand the Prime Minister's opposition to corporal punishment because it had done him good. Page 3

### Millennium dome

The centrepiece of the Millennium Festival in Greenwich is to be a "thundering great dome", large enough to enclose Trafalgar Square and all the surrounding buildings. Page 5

### Family raps newsmen

The newscaster Jon Snow was accused by his brothers of taking "pitiless" revenge on their mother by blaming her in a book for his difficulty in forming close relationships. Page 17

### Church sings praises of dancing

Churchgoers are invited to "do the Holy Hokey" and dance in the aisles by a new Church of England songbook. The book is aimed mainly at children, but it is hoped that adults will also let their hair down and help to introduce youngsters to the brighter side of religion. Titles include *Prayer is Like a Telephone (for us to talk to Jesus)*. Page 5



Class war: the Ridings School in Halifax was closed yesterday after three further assaults on teachers. Report, page 1

## BUSINESS

**Brought to a halt:** Fidelity Brokerage, the British stockbroking arm of the world's largest fund manager, was told to cease recruiting new clients until January by a City watchdog. Page 25

**Power:** The electricity industry will today face an overwhelming demand from retailers to end what they call arbitrary and unregulated charges on bills. Page 25

**Lonrho:** The conglomerate took a major step towards its break-up with the £327 million sale of its Metropole Hotel chain to Stakis. Page 25

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 rose 15.2 points to close at 3979.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 90.2 after a fall from \$1.6326 to \$1.6285. Page 25

**Hebron takeover**

Militant Jewish settlers in Hebron announced plans to occupy more than 20 houses in the Arab-populated central market area when an Israeli withdrawal from the city is agreed. Page 16

**Tutsi capture town**

Tutsi rebels and Rwandan troops captured one of Zaire's provincial capitals and were close to overrunning a second, raising fears of nationwide uprisings. Page 12

**French euro ploy**

An accounting ploy by France to ensure it meets the Maastricht criteria for a single currency has been accepted by the European Commission. Page 13

**Millennium dome**

The centrepiece of the Millennium Festival in Greenwich is to be a "thundering great dome", large enough to enclose Trafalgar Square and all the surrounding buildings. Page 5

**Hebron loses ground**

Heavy fighting erupted across an eight-mile front north of Kabul as forces loyal to the former Afghan Government beat back a Taliban offensive. Page 17

## SPORT

**Golf:** The 1997 European Tour will contain a minimum of 36 events on three continents and the prize money will be similar to this year's £29.5 million. Page 48

**Boxing:** Don King, the American promoter, has given Lennox Lewis two dates early next year for his WBC heavyweight title fight with Oliver McCall. Page 48

**Cricket:** Alan Smith, the face and voice of English cricket administration during the past decade, left his office at Lord's for the last time. Page 41

**Sports academy:** The Department of National Heritage said that 25 bids had been received for a national sports academy. The winner is expected to be announced in January. Page 48

**Dramatic duo:** Contrasting productions of Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days* open in London and Paris while Ovid gets a joky updating in a new version of *The Metamorphoses* in London. Page 35

**High notes:** Riccardo Chailly delivers a stunning performance of Mahler's 10th Symphony with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican. Page 35

**Pop books:** Tales of excess: several new titles lift the lid on life in a rock band. Page 36

**Pop albums:** Spice Girls prove they have more going for them than female charm, and the Presidents of the United States of America return to form with a mixture of oddball humour and romping rock. Page 37

## ARTS

**Strength of character:** The upper classes have no fear, says Giles Coren, which is why they are good at seeing-off burglars. Page 18

**Morality in mind:** Valerie Grove interviews Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, about how children should be taught. Page 19

**Pop books:** Tales of excess: several new titles lift the lid on life in a rock band. Page 36

**Pop albums:** Spice Girls prove they have more going for them than female charm, and the Presidents of the United States of America return to form with a mixture of oddball humour and romping rock. Page 37

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Gender gap:** Too many boys are failing behind the girls at school, and it's just not good enough, says Estelle Morris, Labour's spokesperson on education. Page 38

**Form-filling time:** The best approach to completing a university application: find something to gain the tutor's interest. Page 38

**High standards:** There are lessons to be learnt from Japan's educational achievement. Page 39

**Survival guide:** How headteachers can fiddle league tables. Lesson one: enter everyone who can spell their name for general studies A level. Page 39

**PETER RIDDELL:** Talk of family values can misfire when it gets muddled with religion and vague moral statements which are either unachievable or raise fears of government interference in private lives. Page 11

**BERNARD LEVIN:** It is just because Shakespeare is the very greatest writer who has ever lived (and we are certain that he will never be surpassed) that there is a subterranean flow — almost all of it not even understood by those who opened the sluices — who want to bring him down. Page 20

**Marcel Carné:** French film director; Frida Knight, musician, writer and political campaigner; Kenneth Swiss, dentist. Page 23

**Common fisheries policy:** moral code for schools; appointment of Forces chief; new jails; Labour accused of "censorship" by Dixons chief; Fowlers updated. Page 21



## TOMORROW

### IN THE TIMES

#### ■ COOL CITY

Your guide to bargain breaks in the world's chicest city, in Weekend

#### ■ DIRECTORY

Your guide to seven days' TV and radio, plus food, books and entertainment

**— La Vanguardia, Barcelona**

**FIDELITY BROKERAGE:** UK retail stockbroking arm of the world's largest fund manager, was yesterday ordered to refuse recruitment of new clients until January as a senior City watchdog

**THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED** by the Securities and Investment Authority, regulation of brokers and futures traders, taken after Fidelity, which has 30,000 private clients, resulted in operational difficulties resulting from conversion to a new computer system and increased trading volumes.

**THE SFA** formally stepped in after receiving complaints from clients. The warning was headed by Nick Partington, told Fidelity that it will closely monitor progress towards the full resolution of these problems by the end of January 1997.

**THE REGULATOR** should not have been surprised, the SFA will take further steps as it considers necessary in the interests of investors. The watchdog, which has the power to take disciplinary action if it is satisfied with the way in which Fidelity tackles its problems, said it would also consider losses as adequately compensated.

**SOME** Fidelity Brokerage customers have already received compensation for the loss of interest after items such as dividend cheques were not credited to their proper account on time. Fidelity, part of the world's largest fund management group which looks after nearly £60 billion and is owned by the American family of Edward C Johnson III said last night that it would offer compensation on an ex-gratia basis to any existing customer who has suffered loss as a direct consequence of its service problems.

**BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY**

**TIFFANY EGGER,** the former Energy Minister, will take on additional duties as part-time chairman of an engineering company that gets much of its work from the defence industry.

He will spend more than half a working week at the helm of M W Kellogg, while continuing to meet parliamentary obligations. Mr Egger joins the company, whose major clients include Shell, BP, Esso, Texaco and Fina, just over three months after quitting his position in the Government narrowly defeating the guidelines laid down by the Advisory Committee on business appointments.

A spokesman for M W Kel-

logg said: "We are delighted

to welcome Mr Egger to our

team. His extensive experience

in the energy sector will be

valuable to us as we look to

expand our business in the

UK and abroad."

**YESTERDAY'S HIGHEST** day temperature, 18°C, was recorded in Devon; lowest day maximum, 10°C, was recorded in Shetland, Scotland.

**TONIGHT'S FORECAST:** Low pressure will edge eastwards across

Finland and Fennoscandia, with

low pressure tracking quickly

east with little change of central pressure.

**WINDS:** Westerly winds will

blow across the British Isles

tonight, with a cold front

moving across the south.

**TEMPERATURES:** Temperatures will drop significantly across

the British Isles tonight, with

temperatures falling to around

10°C in the south and 5°C in

the north.

**WIND SPEEDS:** Wind speeds

will be moderate across the

British Isles tonight, with

strong winds in the south.

**RHUMIDITY:** High humidity

will continue across the British

Isles tonight, with the highest

humidity in the south.

**WATERFRONT:** The water

front will remain calm across

the British Isles tonight.

**OUTLOOK:** The low pressure

area will move across the

British Isles tomorrow, with

moderate winds and

moderate temperatures.

**WIND DIRECTION:** The wind

direction will change from

westerly to northerly across

the British Isles tomorrow.

**WIND SPEED:** Wind speeds

will be moderate across the

British Isles tomorrow.

**WATERFRONT:** The water

front will remain calm across

the British Isles tomorrow.

**OUTLOOK:** The low pressure

area will move across the

British Isles on Saturday.

**WIND DIRECTION:** The wind

direction will change from

westerly to northerly across

the British Isles on Saturday.

**WIND SPEED:** Wind speeds

will be moderate across the

British Isles on Saturday.

**WATERFRONT:** The water

front will remain calm across

the British Isles on Saturday.

**OUTLOOK:** The low pressure

area will move across the

British Isles on Sunday.

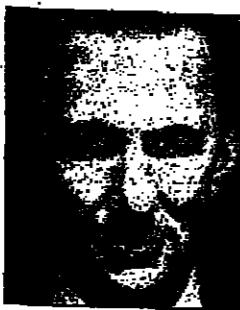
**WIND DIRECTION:** The wind

&lt;p

# THE TIMES

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TODAY



## ECONOMICS

What made the Chancellor raise the interest rate?  
**PAGE 29**



## EDUCATION

Japan may have some lessons for our universities  
**PAGES 38, 39**



## SPORT

Why rugby union must be given a chance to thrive  
**PAGES 40-48**

**TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
46, 47**

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1 1996

## Retailers demand inquiry into soaring meter charges

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE ELECTRICITY industry will today face a demand from retailers to end what they call arbitrary and unregulated charges on commercial power bills.

The British Retail Consortium, which represents 90 per cent of stores in the country, is to call for an immediate investigation of charges imposed by the electricity pool — the trading mechanism — on meters used by industrial electricity users to enable them to shop around for their power. The call comes after talks between the trade grouping and the

Department of Trade and Industry. The group is to ask the electricity regulator to intervene as fresh indications emerge of a growing protest among business users about the way their electricity bills are made up.

The consortium said it "joins J Sainsbury, Royal Mail, Northern Electric and other businesses" in demanding an inquiry into the charges on meters, which have more than tripled since large power users were able to buy power competitively two years ago. Sainsbury sparked a revolt among business users in the summer when it refused to pay part of its electricity bill to demonstrate against the jump in the

metering cost. Other retailers and industrial users followed suit. Northern Electric, which as a supplier of electricity must itemise the charge on its bills, weighed into the argument in a company newsletter when it said a further rise in the charge would be unacceptable.

Royal Mail declined to comment yesterday although it is believed to have been active in campaigning against the charge. This year the charge rose from £299 to £565 per meter. James May, Director-General of the Retail Consortium, said the protest was important because the electricity pool was acting in a non-transparent, unaccountable manner.

He said: "These annual charges have

infuriated many of our larger members. Some of the amount ensures that business can buy electricity from any supplier, which we welcome. However, a significant percentage of the charge contains a substantial levy for money under recovery. The under-recovery is to recoup previous years' losses incurred by the electricity industry as a result of its own mistakes and inefficiencies."

Ian Taylor, energy manager at Sainsbury, said that a recent suggestion by the electricity pool to freeze the charge was welcome but was "only the first move". He said: "We are concerned that there is too little accountability in electricity as full

competition approaches. There is no consumer representation on the pool. We need far more openness in the industry."

Bob Speares, of the Utilities Buyers Forum, said: "The UBF has taken a stand on these charges and appreciates that the pool executive committee is now recognising customers' concerns."

A spokesman for the electricity pool said: "The pool's charge on suppliers pays the actual costs of operating the 100kWh competitive market with customers gaining significant and sustained price reductions since the market's introduction in 1994."

Letters, page 21

## Fidelity hit by ban on new clients

BY ROBERT MILLER

FIDELITY Brokerage, the UK retail stockbroking arm of the world's largest fund manager, was yesterday ordered to cease recruiting new clients until January by a senior City watchdog.

The highly unusual action by the Securities and Futures Authority, regulator for brokers and futures traders, was taken after Fidelity, which has 30,000 private clients, failed to resolve "operational difficulties resulting from converting to a new computer system and increased volume of business".

The SFA formally stepped in after receiving complaints from clients. The watchdog, headed by Nick Durlacher, told Fidelity that it "will be closely monitoring progress towards the full resolution of these problems by the end of January 1997."

The regulator added: "Should they not have been resolved, the SFA will take further steps as it considers necessary in the interests of investors."

The watchdog, which has the power to take disciplinary action if it is not satisfied with the way in which Fidelity tackles its problems, said it would also ensure that customers who had suffered losses "are adequately compensated".

Some Fidelity Brokerage customers have already received compensation for loss of interest after items such as dividend cheques were not credited to the proper accounts on time. Fidelity, part of the world's largest fund management group which looks after nearly £260 billion and is owned by the American family of Edward C Johnson III, said last night that it would offer "compensation on an ex-gratia basis to any existing customer who has suffered loss as a direct consequence of its computer problems."

Fidelity first announced in May that it was experiencing operational difficulties in bedding down a new multi-million pound computer system. These resulted in "accounting and reconciliation problems and a number of customer complaints". They proved so difficult to overcome that in August the broking firm voluntarily ceased advertising for new business.

Phil West, marketing manager at Fidelity Brokerage, said: "We tested the system exhaustively. But when we went live we became aware of software bugs. The tasks that should have been carried out automatically by the back-office, such as ensuring that dividend cheques arrived at the right place or in the proper account on time, was not happening. We have had to override the computer system and carry out the tasks manually."

Mr West added: "We have lost about 200 clients and obviously that is a matter of great regret to us."

Terry Chapman, chairman of TCA Synergo, a specialist software service company that supplied the Tarot settlement system to Fidelity, denied that his firm was to blame. He said: "There were some initial teething problems but these were well within normal limits. The Tarot system is not the prime cause of the difficulties." He added that a number of other retail broking firms had installed his company's computer system, including Barclays Stockbrokers last week, and that these had not experienced similar problems.

The FSA action is a deep embarrassment to Fidelity, which has sought to build a world-wide reputation based on prudent fund management on behalf of individuals and institutions such as pension funds.

Pennington, page 27



Nicola Foulston will be one of the youngest to steer a listed company in the UK

## Brands Hatch worth £34m

BY FRASER NELSON

BRANDS HATCH Leisure, the motor racing circuit owner, will be valued at £5.2 million when it joins the stock market next month. The flotation will raise £9.5 million to fuel its shift away from motor racing and towards corporate entertainment.

The company, which also owns the circuits at Oulton Park, Snetterton and Cadwell Park, plans to develop its four sites into all-round leisure complexes. It plans to spend

£5 million over the next two years, refurbishing the grandstands and building two conference centres.

Nicola Foulston, chief executive, hopes to cut the company's dependency on motor racing to just 20 per cent of sales. The group expects to make pre-tax profits of £2.47 million (£1.14 million) in the year.

The company's first flotation plans were shelved in 1987, when John Foulston,

Nicola's father, died in a motoring accident. He bought the company from BAT Industries for £5.25 million in 1986. His estate passed into a family trust, and Ms Foulston became chief executive at the age of 24, on an annual salary of £20,000. Now 29, she will become one of the youngest leaders of a UK-listed company and will receive in excess of £150,000 a year.

Tempus, page 28

## Eggar applies his energy to new job

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TIM EGGER, the former Energy Minister, will today assume duties as part-time chairman of an engineering company that gets much of its work from the energy industry.

He will spend more than half a working week at the helm of M W Kellogg, while continuing to meet parliamentary obligations. Mr Eggar joins the company, whose major clients include Shell, BP, Esso, Texaco and Fina, just over three months after quitting his position in the Government, narrowly meeting the guidelines laid down by the Advisory Committee on business appointments.

A spokesman for M W Kel-



Eggar: part-time chairman

## British Bus deal referred to MMC

BY KEITH RODGERS

THE £282 million takeover of British Bus by Cowie Group, the motor and bus company, has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission because of government concerns about the effect on competition in the South East.

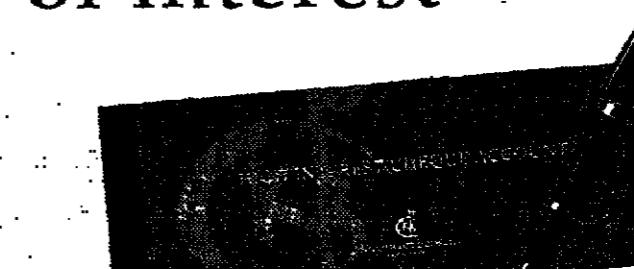
John Taylor, corporate and consumer affairs Minister, highlighted worries about competition in south London and parts of Surrey and Kent, where part of Cowie's existing operations overlap with British Bus. Cowie, which completed the acquisition in August and has subsequently taken over North East Bus, is now the second-biggest UK operator with 18 per cent of the market. Cowie Group said it believed

the major concern was that the acquisition gave it 26.4 per cent of the London tendered routes, above the preferred maximum of 25 per cent. It has already rationalised the services to 25.4 per cent since the takeover and said it was prepared to co-operate with the MMC to move below the threshold. Its options include disposal of individual routes and possible route swaps with other operators.

The company added that the referral concerns a small proportion of its operations and claimed the structure of the local services does not operate against the public interest.

Pennington, page 27

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**BUSINESS TODAY**

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3979.1	(+15.2)
Yield	3.94%	(+0.48)
FTSE All share	1956.9	(+21.81)
New York	2046.95	(+21.81)
Dow Jones	6003.66	(+10.43)*
S&P Composite	702.00	(+1.10)*

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(+0.50%)
Long Bond	100P 2/8	(100.25)
T-Bill	5.625%	(+0.70%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.00%	(6.00%)
Libor long gilt future (Dec)	100P 1/2	(100.12%)

### STERLING

New York	1.6277*	(1.6236)
London	1.6284	(1.6223)
S	2.4841	(2.4603)
DM	0.8247	(0.8113)
FR	1.2047	(1.1930)
Yen	185.22	(185.92)
£ Index	90.2	(90.2)

### USD/JPY DOLLAR

London	1.5114*	(1.5110)
DM	1.5114*	(1.5110)
FR	1.2827*	(1.2850)
Yen	113.80*	(114.12)
£ Index	97.1	(97.0)

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$22.70	(\$22.20)
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\* denotes midday trading price

High oil prices combined with a rise in crude production boosted Britain's oil and gas revenues to a six year high in September. Shell enjoyed the high oil prices but suffered from low refining margins. Page 32. Shell results 27. Tempus 28

**Oil record**

High oil prices combined with a rise in crude production boosted Britain's oil and gas revenues to a six year high in September. Shell enjoyed the high oil prices but suffered from low refining margins. Page 32. Shell results 27. Tempus 28

**Body Shop up**

Body Shop raised profits 30 per cent in the first half despite a poor performance in America. A rise in Asian sales helped. Page 30. Tempus 28

High oil prices combined with a rise in crude production boosted Britain's oil and gas revenues to a six

## Lloyd's starts timely review

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LLOYD'S of London has officially begun a regulatory review before an expected wide-ranging shake-up of City regulations next year.

The review group will be led by Sir Alan Hardcastle, chairman of Lloyd's Regulatory Board. The board, which acts as an external regulator, will put forward proposals for change in the market so that Lloyd's has significant input into any regulatory amendments drawn up after the general election.

Lloyd's is regulated under a private Act of Parliament, Lloyd's Act 1982, and is largely exempt from the provisions of the Financial Services Act 1986.

Sir Alan said: "The Lloyd's market... is very different from the market of the past and it will continue to change. This review... will determine how our regulatory arrangements should be developed. It is imperative to ensure that the sharp lessons of the past have been properly learnt."

The review group is inviting written submissions and plans to report to the Council of Lloyd's before the middle of 1997.



Roger Leverton, left, and Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of Pilkington, reflect on a much lower £75 million halfway profit

## Labour holds fire on board policy

By GRAHAM SEARLENT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Labour Party appeared to stand back from encouraging companies to have two-tier boards of directors ahead of a predictably hostile report from the Confederation of British Industry.

Stuart Bell, Shadow Minister for Corporate Affairs, said Labour's policy was to change the ethos of companies to make them more "inclusive", but that legal prescription was not the best way. Mr Bell said Labour had raised the possibility of legislating for an optional two-tier structure but was aware of the CBI view and would study the report carefully.

In *Boards Without Tiers*, the CBI strongly opposes representatives of anyone except the whole body of shareholders sharing in the governance of companies. It opposes a two-tier structure because it could be an excuse for other stakeholders to infiltrate the upper-tier supervisory board. That would revive fears of the CBI's long-standing bugbear—workers on the board.

Martin Broughton, chief executive of BAT Industries and chairman of the CBI's company committee, said: "Putting the interests of shareholders first should continue to be the goal for boards of directors and the measure against which they are held to account."

The report argues against forcing managers to balance the interests of different stakeholders. Imposing wider responsibilities "would be to move from a position where directors may be held accountable, and in which their duties are clear, to a position where their duties are unclear and they might not in reality be accountable to anyone for anything".

The CBI praises the present unitary, non-representative, board with non-executive directors, on the pattern recommended by the Cadbury committee on financial aspects of corporate governance. But it suggests that non-executive directors might have lighter legal responsibilities.

The report is the CBI's contribution to the Hampel committee, which is looking at how the Cadbury code is working and whether further changes in corporate governance are needed.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### OFT warning starts Vodafone changes

VODAFONE became the first company to yield to the threat of legal action from John Bridgeman, head of the Office of Fair Trading, by ending stipulations in phone contracts judged to transgress fair trading laws. The mobile phone network company, which owns four major providers of mobile phone services, has agreed to drop the disconnection charge of £50 plus VAT; to cut the requirement for users to give 90 days notice of termination of contracts to one month; to curb wide-ranging rights to increase prices; and to allow customers to withdraw from contracts if the price climbs too high.

Mr Bridgeman had warned nine companies that they faced legal action if they did not amend controversial contracts that have been the focus of campaigning by consumer groups. Yesterday he said Vodafone "has considerably improved the contracts overall". Other companies have yet to meet the conditions. But the competitive nature of the market is expected to bring similar concessions across the industry.

### Irish bosses back EMU

COMPANY directors in the Irish Republic strongly support full participation in the European Monetary Union, according to a survey released yesterday by the Institute of Directors in Ireland. It found that 91 per cent of respondents wanted the Republic to be in the first group to join the single currency. Asked what Ireland should do if Britain remains outside EMU, 57 per cent said the Republic should press ahead. Most directors felt EMU would be good for the economy and their businesses. But over 70 per cent admitted they had not considered the issue in any great depth.

### Help for Telekom rivals

THE European Commission is expected to attach further conditions to Deutsche Telekom's plans to grant price discounts to big customers. EU sources said yesterday. The move is to ensure that business rivals can compete effectively with Telekom in Germany. Although the conditions will further dent Telekom's dominant position in the German market, they are not expected to upset its stock market flotation on November 18. The Commission's decision will allow it to proceed with discounts of up to 35 per cent to large business clients from today.

### Conoco record attempt

CONOCO, the American oil company, has commissioned a new drilling vessel capable of drilling wells in water depths greater than ever before achieved. The \$200 million drillship will be able to operate in depths up to 10,000 ft, using satellite positioning technology. Conoco will build the ship in joint venture with Readings & Bates, the drilling company, as part of a \$400 million five-year drilling programme in the Gulf of Mexico. Conoco said that the vessel would be capable of going beyond the recent record depth set by Shell at 7,600 ft in the Gulf of Mexico.

### US deal for Memory

MEMORY CORPORATION, the troubled AIM-listed microchip repairer, embarked on the first stage of its recovery plan yesterday by agreeing to license its technology to a US electronics company. The deal marks the company's first move into technology licensing, where previously it only sold the repaired chips that its devices produce. It was forced out of this market earlier in the year, when the average price of perfect chips plunged from \$400 to \$70. Memory Corporation's shares rose 10p yesterday, closing at 65p. They traded at 53p last year, and fell as low as 22½p in September.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sales
Australia \$	2.15	1.98
Austria Sch	18.31	16.81
Bahrain D	6.67	6.28
Canada \$	2.268	2.128
Cyprus Cyp	0.782	0.727
Denmark Kr	10.02	9.25
Finland F	1.54	1.28
France Fr	8.70	8.05
Germany DM	2.62	2.41
Greece Dr	4.02	3.71
Hong Kong \$	13.22	12.22
Iceland I	1.15	0.95
Ireland P	1.05	0.97
Italy Lira	2575	2420
Japan Yen	198.60	182.80
Malta	0.822	0.667
New Zealand \$	2.11	2.01
Norway Kr	2.45	2.23
Portugal Esc	10.94	10.14
Spain Pes	26.00	24.12
Sweden Kr	6.20	5.50
Tunisia D	213.50	200.50
Sweden Kr	11.31	10.51
United Kind Fr	2.11	2.01
Tunisia D	159.60	159.60
USA \$	1.726	1.596

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

## Price war puts Stena into red

STENA LINE, the Swedish ferry operator, was dragged into the red in the first nine months of 1996 by the fierce price war raging between cross-Channel ferry companies and Eurotunnel (Noel Fung writes).

It dipped to a loss of Skr251 million (£23.46 million), com-

pared with a profit of Skr272 million in the corresponding period last year. The company expects losses of Skr450 million for the year as a whole, compared with profits of Skr201 million last year.

Stena Line derived 25 per cent of its turnover from the Dover-Calais route, a lucra-

tive market being eroded by the price war.

Although Channel passenger numbers rose 12 per cent to 8.9 million and vehicle numbers went up 14 per cent to 1.7 million, the price war ate into profit margins. Overall sales fell 6.5 per cent to Skr7.07 billion.

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## THE TIMES

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\*Free Eurostar tickets are subject to seat availability. Due to seasonal demand, free tickets are not available for travel from December 24 1996 to January 5 1997 and March 25 1997 to April 10 1997 inclusive.

Abridged terms and conditions appeared in Monday's paper and will appear again on November 16. Full terms and conditions will be in your information pack.

THE TIMES	5
eurostar	TOKEN

CHANGING TIMES

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PSI Net

A cheaper way of raising cash?  Work piles up at the MMC  Computer chaos at Fidelity

## Blunting the Damoclean sword

SCHRODERS conducted a little experiment yesterday. One of our more go-ahead merchant banks decided to see if, as enemies of the existing system of cash-raising have insisted, there is an appetite for a cheaper method. To put it more bluntly, has the City been overcharging its clients for decades?

This is of more than hypothetical interest because of the Damoclean sword that has been hanging over the City in the form of a reference of fees and commissions to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The Office of Fair Trading has been looking at this since March last year and has sought the views of the finance directors of our 250 biggest companies, some of whom have already been vociferous on the need for change.

Opposition has also come from big international investment banks that can expect to benefit from the introduction of the sort of book-building common in New York, even if there is no proof this is cheaper for clients. The Big Bang a decade ago was triggered by a similar OFT inquiry into the old stockbroking traditions. Clever new ways of cutting the cost to companies of the ordinary rights issue would increase the latter's chances of survival.

Two thirds of the £222 million

cash call arranged by Schroders for Stakis to fund the Metropole deal was along traditional lines. Schroders gets 0.5 per cent as an underwriting commission, Merrill Lynch 0.25 per cent as the broker that arranges the immediate sub-underwriting with institutions. These last take 15 per cent to cover the six weeks they will be at risk, the period during which Stakis shares can fall out of bed before they go to existing investors.

The other third of the issue those institutions had to tender for. The lower the rate of fee they were prepared to accept, the more shares they got, subject to a sensible maximum. The average rate this produced was then applied to the other fees on the deal. If institutions were prepared to cut their rates to take on the same risk, the experiment should show this.

In the event institutions were prepared to trim their rates, but not by much. Stakis will pay £400,000 less in fees than it would under the old system, but potentially it could have saved more than £1 million.

So, whither now? The Schroders innovation, a limited one, could be extended further, say by having the entire rights issue subject to the same tendering process to produce the lowest possible rate of fees. As an alternative, the Stakis rights provided a cap; institutions could not bid for extra stock at a higher commission than the 1.5 per cent they were already getting. Take an especially risky rights issue of a company whose future might be in doubt, or in a dicey market. Remove the cap. Force fees higher, to reflect the precise risk, rather than having the issue fail entirely.

### Rules of Monopoly need changing

WHAT is the strange allure that takeovers involving bus companies exert on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission? The MMC was already looking at two such deals when a third, Cowie's purchase of British Bus, was flipped to it on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading.

### PENNINGTON



The answer is that competition authorities are required to look at any situation that might create an unhealthy concentration of market power or a monopoly. Without wishing to prejudice any of the deals under consideration, mergers between bus companies or their purchase of railways are generally designed to bring about just that.

But the arrival at the MMC of yet another deal stretches an already strained workload. The Commission is also considering two companies thrown to it by exasperated regulators, British Gas TransCo and Northern Ireland Electricity.

There are debates over Scottish milk, Kent water, and a look at the activities

of Scottish estate agents and solicitors that one can only hope ends badly for both parties. There is the long inquiry into electrical goods, which by the time it ends will have clocked up a full year on the meter.

It could shortly get much busier. Forget rights issues. Within days the OFT will hand over its views on the Bass-Carlsberg-Tetley merger. The odds, initially in favour of the deal going through, are tilting towards an MMC reference. There will soon be a ruling on Booker's purchase of Nurdin & Peacock, and the delay so far does not suggest that all has been plain sailing.

Busier still, if some of the expected rush of pre-election bids such as this week's for Northern Electricity have to be referred. These inquiries are such long-winded affairs because every business that could conceivably be affected, and every pipsqueak trade body, has to be given time to grind its respective axe. This is all commendably fair and British, but the eventual findings that emerge do not always justify

the time taken, or the delays imposed on those parties involved who just want to get on with business.

### A bad workman blames his tools

THE dawning of the information age has provided many benefits to mankind, not the least being the perfect electronic scapegoat. In another time, it might have been witches or pixies, now it is the computer systems and their uncontrollable fits of rage that get the blame.

The latest riot in cyberspace took place at Fidelity Brokerage Services, where one of the most embarrassing foul-ups by any stockbroker in years is blamed on our old friend "operational difficulties resulting from converting to a new computer system". That and increased volume of business; we're victims of our own success, you see.

The first is exactly the same excuse being peddled a few weeks ago by British Gas, as it sent the bailiffs around to blame-

less customers. There are two lessons to be learned from computers. They do not go wrong of their own accord, they have to be rendered inoperable by human hand. The second is that any new system will indeed be rendered inoperable, and for longer than anyone could have predicted, so test them first, do not test them on your customers.

Fidelity is being forced to shut up shop for three months to deal with the relatively light task of ensuring this summer's PEP statements to clients are correct and clearing up 85 outstanding complaints. There was some tosh being talked about it being the company's choice, but clearly the SFA has acted firmly and decisively. Good thing too.

### Q&A session

QUOTE of the week comes from the National Association of Pension Funds, on future pension liabilities across the EC: "We don't have answers because we don't know what questions to ask." True, but start with these three and see how they simplify matters. How much money is short? Who will have to find it? And now for a multiple choice: will the average Briton be a) better off, or b) worse off as a result of being in EMU when the final bill has to be paid?

## Wace plunges on shake-up proposal

By JASON NISSE

NEARLY half the value of shares in Wace, which produces pre-publication images for advertising agencies and magazines, was lost yesterday after the company announced a big restructuring which will send it into losses.

The shake-up is the second implemented by Trevor Grice, who took over as chief executive in 1993. He oversaw a recovery in the company's shares from 40p to 260p, but yesterday they lost 65p to close at just 60½p.

Mr Grice is to close the company's printing plant in Glasgow, with the loss of 59 jobs, sell the magazine-imaging side in the US and look for joint ventures for most of the

rest of the US business as well as putting on the block some small operations in Holland and France which have been making money. The net effect will be write-offs totalling £9 million. The company, which analysts had been expecting to report a healthy £18 million profit this year, is now likely to report a small loss.

Wace is trying to expand in digital imaging, which creates pictures, diagrams and production lay-out for the print medium or on CD-Rom. The City is cautious about Wace's future. "Some of the businesses we were told a couple of years ago were growth prospects are being ditched," said one analyst.

## Downstream pressures hold back Shell profits

By CARL MORTISHED

COLLAPSING margins in refining and chemicals spoilt the benefit of a higher oil price for the Royal Dutch/Shell group.

The price of Brent crude reached its highest level since the Gulf War during Shell's third quarter but, while the company's three-month earnings from the sale of oil and gas almost doubled from the previous year, profits from chemicals and refining fell sharply.

Shell blamed competitive pressures and higher raw material costs for the setback in its downstream businesses.

Measured on a current cost basis and excluding special

items, group earnings fell 7 per cent to £1.1 billion during the three months to September compared with the third quarter of 1995. For the first nine months, earnings grew only 5 per cent to £3.8 billion.

The stock market reacted badly to the news and shares in Shell Transport & Trading slipped 14p to £10.06. However, analysts suggested the results were not out of line with most forecasts and pointed to the recent sharp rise in Shell Transport stock. "They needed very good figures to justify the share price," one commented.

Profits from exploration and production soared thanks to the oil price and increased output.

Crude oil production was up 5

per cent, while gas production rose 10 per cent and the company claimed a reduction in unit operating costs which helped to boost margins.

Upstream earnings rose 92 per cent to £590 million during the period but Shell yesterday predicted further volatility in the oil price. During the third quarter, Brent blend averaged \$20.90 per barrel, up \$1.40 from the previous quarter and a \$4.75 increase from the same period last year.

Shell's chemical earnings suffered a squeeze from declining prices and the rising cost of feedstocks, mainly crude oil.

Earnings on a current cost basis fell 40 per cent to £189 million in the third quarter

excluding an £84 million gain from the sale of its fine chemicals business to Inspic.

Refining margins continue to hurt profits in Shell's downstream businesses. Since the second quarter, margins halved in the Gulf, while in Asia they collapsed from \$3 per barrel to \$1.70. Shell said that marketing continued to provide the main contribution to earnings which on a current cost basis fell 27 per cent to £422 million.

Shell's net income, including the benefit of stockholding gains rose 26 per cent to £1.3 billion in the quarter.

Tempos, page 28

Oil revenues up, page 32

## Debut for Thomas the Tank Engine

By JASON NISSE AND KEITH RODGERS

BRITT Allcroft Company, which brought *Thomas the Tank Engine* to stardom, yesterday announced a £30.6 million float and Caspian, the leisure group, said that it was selling a portfolio of TV shows including *Paddington Bear* and *The Wombles* for £10.5 million.

Caspian, which recently bought Leeds United Football Club for £16.5 million, is to use some of the money to fund a bid for the Sheffield Steelers, one of Britain's leading ice hockey teams, which is on track for £4 million.

Cinar, the Canadian film maker, is paying £5.5 million in cash plus a mixture of shares and debt replacements

for Caspian's children's character business, which was bought for only £1.75 million in 1991. The operation was loss making and contributed to an £80.000 pre-tax deficit for Caspian in the first half of this year.

Dealing in shares of Britt Allcroft starts next Wednesday. The company plans to place 8.5 million shares at 130p per share and issue 3.8 million new shares to raise £4.2 million net.

The husband and wife team of Angus Wright and Britt Allcroft will each own 13.1 per cent of the shares. Ringo Starr, the former Beatle, has a stake with a value of more than £1.5 million.

# 11 million

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## STOCK MARKETS

MICHAEL CEARNS

# Surge of US interest in generators' shares

THE London stock market was lit up as American investors came pouring in for shares of Britain's power generators.

PowerGen led the way with a leap of 18p to 510p in heavy turnover that saw 4.59 million shares change hands. National Power was sought, up 13p to 407p on turnover of 6.16 million shares. Demand also spilled over into ScottishPower, 7p better at 314p, and Scottish Hydro, up 1p at 275p.

Brokers said there was no mention of a bid to drive prices higher. Instead, it seems PowerGen has been in the US talking to institutional investors in an attempt to soothe any concern they may have about the threat of a windfall tax if Labour is returned at the general election.

PowerGen is said to be relaxed about the whole affair. Its message seems to have gone down well with the Americans, who have been quick to latch on to the fact that the GenCos have been left behind by the rest of the market in recent months.

The rest of the equity market recovered some of its poise in the wake of Wednesday's rate rise. Selective institutional support enabled the FTSE 100 index to recover an early 12-point fall before closing at its best of the day with a rise of 15.2 points at 3,979.

Sentiment was given a further boost towards the close by the latest Chicago purchasing managers' index and personal income and jobless claims. All eyes will be focused later today on the non-farm payroll numbers.

The relaxation of rules governing media ownership came into force at midnight, with the introduction of the Broadcasting Act. Under the new rules companies can own television and broadcasting licences amounting to 15 per cent of the audience. It means that the smaller companies are likely to be swallowed up.

Top of the hit list is HTV, up 3p to 378.5p. Only last week, United News & Media paid £4 million for Scottish Television's near 20 per cent stake.

It is now thought Scottish will turn its attention to Granada Television, up 27p at 327.5p. There is also a real prospect that Granada, 6p better at 884.5p, will eventually launch a bid for Yorkshire Tyne-Tees, up 25p at 512.675p, where it has a



Granada, which makes Coronation Street, was up 6p

sizable holding. Cookson Group fell 10p to 226.5p after ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, turned bearish. It is reckoned to have cut its pre-tax profits forecast for the current year by £7 million to £171 million and for 1997 by £5 million to £190 million.

A survey claiming Asda is the fastest growing food retail-

er in Britain, lifted the shares 4p to 117.5p. Despite talk of a downgrading from BZW after a visit by brokers to its pet food operations in France, it is reckoned to have cut its current year forecast by £5 million to £110 million and for next year by £6 million to £121 million. Turnover reached 4.25 million shares.

Perkins Foods slipped 2p to 84p after hitting the acquisition trail. It is paying £15.6 million for Ditselkou Group, the Dutch food distributor. Virtually all the proceeds will be raised by way of a one-for-six rights issue at 74p.

□ GILT-EDGED: Prices continued to lose ground in reaction to Wednesday's quarter point rise in bank base rates to 6 per cent – the first such rise in two years.

Investors were also taking a cautious view of events ahead of today's US employment figures, which it is feared could trigger an increase in American interest rates ahead of next week's presidential election.

Index-linked issues were badly hit. In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilts fell £32 to £109.16 as a total of 100,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £3 to £101.16, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks off at £103.11.

□ NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were higher in early trading because of strength in the bond market and the high-technology sector. However, analysts said that the market was quiet. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 10.43 points to 6,003.66.

Pilkington has gained market share but faces a head-to-head battle with rival St Gobain and prices may be squeezed if the French group tries to regain market leadership. Analysts have trimmed forecasts to the £185 million to £190 million range, with earnings per share down from 14p to around 10p. More news of improvement in Europe may help rally shares in the short term but after its recent underperformance, analysts are not yet banking on a sparkling recovery.

The benefits of the group's restructuring programme, including big job cuts and cost reductions, will gradually flow through to profit. Nevertheless, Pilkington finds itself bogged down in a soggy market with European building products in recession. Pilkington reports a recent firming of glass prices and stronger volumes but given the weak growth forecasts for European construction, the outlook is gloom.

The motor industry, particularly in the US, is a better customer and sales of glass to car manufacturers are

booming ahead. In Europe, reeding ahead.

While the result may be a

slightly classier version of Alton Towers, it is has some sound business logic. There are no shortage of executives willing to pay a high price to live out their fantasies. For many, a visit to Brands Hatch is a form of pilgrimage, and those attending the ground may well be mesmerised into parting with even more cash.

But how much time will its

reputation buy it? It has not hosted the Grand Prix in ten years, and now that racing circuits are only allowed to

collect gate money from the

events, the new Brands Hatch management is less keen to bid for it.

So dependent on corporate

entertaining allowances,

Brands Hatch should have a decent run until the next re

cession. But it is unlikely that the management will be able to sprinkle the Brands Hatch magic on their other three racecourses.

## Shell's piggy bank

SHELL'S third-quarter earnings decline should have been no surprise. The warnings were fulsome in the form of the dreadful downstream margins recently reported by Shell's US competitors.

While pure exploration companies enjoy the high-altitude exhilaration of \$25 oil prices, an integrated oil company suffers the cost of refining expensive crude. More to the point, passing on higher cost to a market oversupplied with gasoline is difficult, and it is interesting to note that marketing and refining made up the bulk of earnings in the downstream business. Evidently, the big oil companies are making more money at the pumps as they burn banknotes in their refineries.

Upstream, Shell is doing well, notwithstanding an unusually high exploration write-off. Gas production was up an impressive 10

per cent (no doubt helped by British Gas's decision to shut in production at Morecambe Bay) and unit costs are still coming down. In short, the operating picture looks good. What is of concern is what is happening to cash.

To be precise, what is not happening to cash is a concern. Shell had £3 billion in the bank in September, and capital expenditure was almost static at £1.9 billion for the quarter. Having failed to replace its oil production for years, Shell desperately needs to invest heavily – the company aims to raise its annual spend by about 30 per cent – but there was little evidence in the figures.

Optimists might say Shell is doing more while spending less. Pessimists may wonder whether the Shell committee men are still in control after last year's job shake-out. Either way, there is still too much cash in the bank

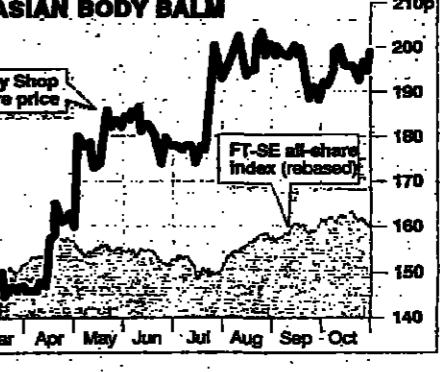
## Body Shop

GORDON RODDICK wants the Body Shop to enjoy "balanced growth" – a sensible ambition and, no doubt, one that the shareholders would endorse. Unfortunately, the company is a long way from achieving it, with yesterday's results showing growth to be very top-sided.

Asia is terrific, with like-for-like sales up 8 per cent. The company plans to open in Korea within the next few months, and there are other untapped but promising markets among the Asian Tigers.

On the flip side is the United States, the most disappointing and worrying market. Like-for-like sales were down 4 per cent, after last year's 8 per cent fall. Competition in that market is fierce. Although some of Body Shop's American rivals

bypassed the Body Shop, and sales were up only 1 per cent like-for-like. With the market here becoming ever more competitive, and companies such as Virgin planning to enter the branded cosmetics business next year, it would be more comforting to see the Body Shop doing well. Life is not going to get any easier.



## Pilkington

AN EXCELLENT firm in a rubbish industry. That was the view of one forthright analyst, pondering Pilkington's interim figures. Not everyone would so describe it but few would disagree that Pilkington had made sterling efforts to get back into shape after the costly diversification of the late 1980s.

The benefits of the group's restructuring programme, including big job cuts and cost reductions, will gradually flow through to profit. Nevertheless, Pilkington finds itself bogged down in a soggy market with European building products in recession.

Pilkington reports a recent firming of glass prices and stronger volumes but given the weak growth forecasts for European construction, the outlook is gloom. The motor industry, particularly in the US, is a better customer and sales of glass to car manufacturers are

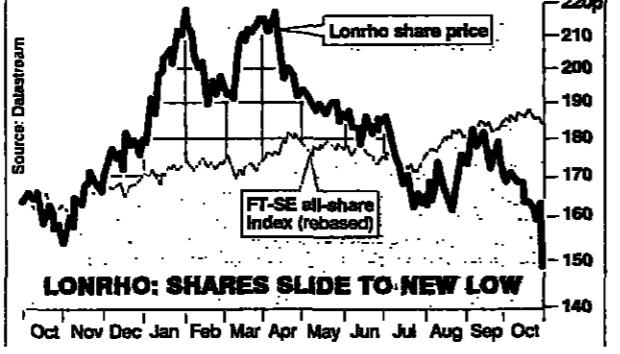
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But how much time will its reputation buy it? It has not hosted the Grand Prix in ten years, and now that racing circuits are only allowed to collect gate money from the events, the new Brands Hatch management is less keen to bid for it.

So dependent on corporate entertaining allowances, Brands Hatch should have a decent run until the next recession. But it is unlikely that the management will be able to sprinkle the Brands Hatch magic on their other three racecourses.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED



Closing Prices Page 31

Source: Datamonitor

FTSE all-share Index (rebased)

Lonrho share price

FTSE all-share Index (rebased)

FTSE 100

FTSE 250

Three Month Sterling

Three Month Interest

Three Month Euro Yen

Three Month Euro DM

Three Month ECU

Three Month Swiss Franc

Italian Govt Bond

Three Month Interest

Three Month Euro Yen

Three Month Euro DM

Three Month ECU

Three Month Swiss Franc

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THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

### Mistaken identity

A FRONT page apology alone from the *Financial Times* yesterday was not enough to appease the mighty Tony Rowland. After the *Pink'un* published a story saying incorrectly that the former chief executive of Lourobo was unfit to preside over a public company, the tycoon demanded an apology as well as a quarter-page advertisement. The error, said by *FT* insiders to have been made by a desk editor rather than the author of the article, was in fact a comment about Robert Maxwell made by the Board of Trade in a report published in the 1970s. Rowland, a former proprietor of *The Observer*, will not claim damages.

### Wrong tempo

TEMPO, the electrical retailer, was in trouble yesterday with Chris Tarrant, the Capital FM presenter. The battle was over pre-booked radio advertisements for Tempo featuring the voice of Tarrant's former colleague, Kara Noble, who left the radio station to join Heart 106.2 FM. Numerous listeners have called Capital asking whether Noble has returned. Unhappy Tarrant says that he will put a stop to the advertisements unless Noble's voice-over is changed.

SOUNDS like Pilkington has found success, in one field at least. When the glass manufacturer devised a weatherproof mirror, keepers at Slimbridge Bird Sanctuary, Gloucestershire, seized upon the idea. For flamingoes, I am told, are more likely to mate when surrounded by their feathered friends. So, a bank of the mirrors has been put in the flamingo pit. The results of the aphrodisiac won't show until the summer.



### Deal-doer Pirie

AFTER 11 years as chief executive of Rothschild, Robert Pirie has joined Société Générale in New York as vice-chairman in the investment banking division and a senior member of the international mergers and acquisitions group. Having been involved in mergers and acquisitions on behalf of Hanson, Marks & Spencer, and Sir James Goldsmith, Pirie is quite a catch. Stephen Bristy, a member of SocGen's international investment banking committee, describes him as "a fascinating combination of tough Wall Street deal-doer, and someone with an urbane cultured approach to life".

### Shellshocked

BODY SHOP International is said to be furious after an invitation was withdrawn because it would have meant sharing a conference platform with Shell. This has not appeased relations between the two companies, which both announced yesterday. Gavin Grant, public affairs manager at Body Shop, agreed to speak at the conference on Ethical Values in Business Communications on November 20. Then Fifth Estate, the organiser, withdrew the invitation. Apparently Peter Hunt, head of group communication at Shell International, felt uncomfortable at the prospect.

MORAG PRESTON



ANATOLE KALETSKY

# Why did the Chancellor opt to raise interest rates?

Kenneth Clarke seems to have put his place in history above the interests of the nation

**W**hy on earth did he do it? For the past two weeks I have devoted this column to the economic damage that a Labour government would do to Britain if it started raising interest rates after the general election and thereby caused another disastrous overshooting of the pound. But, to my surprise, Kenneth Clarke has beaten Labour to it. The damage to manufacturing and investment will begin immediately, rather than after the election, but otherwise there is little to add to the arguments I have put forward in the past two weeks. Instead I want to consider why interest rates are now certain to go on rising — and why an intelligent and previously responsible Chancellor might have chosen to damage the economy in this way.

The political reasons given by most City analysts do not convince me. These reasons were well summarised in a remarkably prescient, though economically misguided, Lex Column published in the *Financial Times* on Wednesday, a few hours before the Chancellor's unexpected announcement: "None of these [economic] arguments is likely to weigh as heavily on Mr Clarke's mind as electoral politics. Yet the politics does not all point one way. A rate rise now would be considerably less painful for the Conservatives than one closer to the election. It could also — ironically — make the markets more tolerant of an aggressive tax-cutting budget. Who knows? Mr Clarke could yet surprise us."

The reason why these beguiling arguments do not stack up is very clearly illustrated in the article by Tim Congdon, one of the Chancellor's independent economic advisers, on page 20 of today's *Times*. As Mr Congdon states, the quarter-point move in base rates is much too small to have any significant effect on the economy. He suggests that rates would have to be lifted by a further full percentage point, at a minimum, to have any worthwhile impact on inflation.

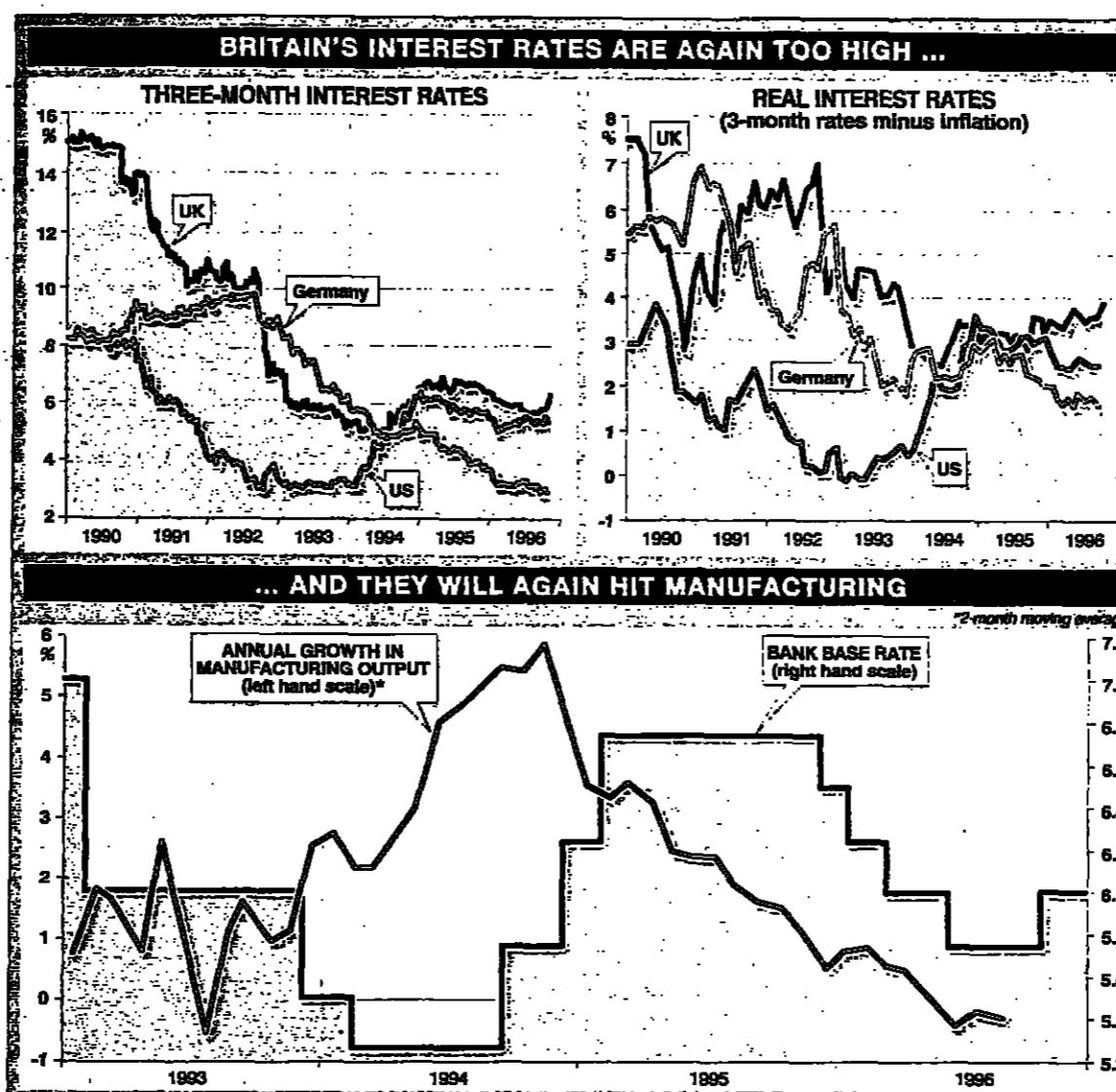
Personally, I disagree with almost every aspect of Mr Congdon's analysis — in particular with his faith in the over-riding importance of the "money supply", which leads him to the strange conclusion that a nation with two million people jobless is on the verge of a boom. But on his prediction of 7 per cent interest rates, I cannot fault him. If Mr Clarke is genuinely worried about inflation, or even if he merely wants to "reassure" the markets about his anti-inflationary resolve, then at least another three or four upward steps in interest rates will be required between now and the election. It is worth recalling that the 1994 round of monetary tightening, which the Chancellor lauded on Wednesday as a paradigm of successful "pre-emptive" action, involved a jump in base rates of 1.5 percentage points in three months.

This pressure is, in fact, already apparent in the market. Short-term futures have fallen sharply, anticipating at least one more rate increase before March. Gilt-edged securities have also declined, suggesting that investors have actually become more nervous about inflation.

This was to be expected. Remember the financial markets' favourite slogan: "the trend is your friend". Instead of neutralising the monetary issue until the general election, Mr Clarke's move has whetted the market's appetite for more rate increases by signalling a clear change in the trend of interest rates.

For every economist and leader-writer who may now believe that the Chancellor's "pre-emptive" action has nipped inflation in the bud, there are a hundred City dealers who expect interest rates to continue rising — for the simple reason that the trend is now pointing upwards. And each of those hundred dealers controls a million times more money than the commentator.

The likelihood is, therefore, that the



tors who might be impressed by Mr Clarke's "courageous" move.

Since Mr Clarke has shown himself in the past to be an intelligent Chancellor I cannot believe he was ignorant of the pressures for still-higher interest rates he is now certain to face. To return, then, to where I started: why did he do it?

I think his reasons were profoundly political, but not in the crude electioneering sense generally understood. Mr Clarke knows that he has a better chance of earning an honorable place in history than any other member of the present Government (John Major included). His hopes of doing this depend entirely on avoiding the fate of Nigel Lawson, Tony Barber and Reginald Maudling: he does not want his name to become a mere adjective attached to the word "boom". Whether or not he shares in the alarm expressed by Mr Congdon (and the Bank of England) about the present strength of the economy, Mr Clarke no doubt believes that an unsustainable boom could develop eventually, and that if it did he would be blamed. If, on the other hand, the economy fell back into stagnation and unemployment started rising again after the election, the blame would fall on the next Labour government. From Mr Clarke's point of view, therefore, it may be more attractive to be seen to be taking some action now against inflation, even if inflation is not really a very serious threat.

At this point in the argument we have to factor in the corruption of Britain's political culture by monetarist dogmas. The most important of these is the proposition that Government macroeconomic policy is responsible for inflation, but that growth and unemployment are a function of other ill-defined structural forces. The implication of this doctrine is that

politicians can be blamed for failing to control inflation, but not for unemployment and inadequate growth. Contrast this with the situation in Washington, where the Federal Reserve Board explicitly regards its mission as "achieving the highest rate of sustainable growth compatible with price stability", and the reason for America's superior economic performance is crystal clear.

The question that remains is why the Chancellor should be taking out his personal insurance policy against inflation in the way that will do most damage to manufacturing and investment — by raising interest rates and thereby adding to the strength of the pound. I can think of only one possible reason.

The only form of anti-inflation insurance that would be in Britain's national interests — a sharp reduction in the Government deficit — is simply ruled out for political reasons. Mr Clarke's position in the Cabinet may be unassassable when it comes to provocative comments on Europe, but John Major would certainly boot him out of the Treasury if he seriously proposed a Budget that contained a significant cut in core public spending programmes or a large increase in taxes.

Mr Clarke has thus been left with a stark choice. To damage the economy and the Tory's re-election chances by raising interest rates now and continuing to raise them right up to the election — or to risk the loss of his personal reputation in case Mr Congdon and other Cassandras proved right in predicting an unsustainable boom.

Mr Clarke seems to have put his place in history above the interests of the nation. As one of his long-standing admirers, I must admit to being disappointed, but I suppose I should not have been surprised. He is just a politician, after all.

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### New law would offer building societies greater flexibility

From the Chairman of the Building Societies Association Sir, In his desire to promote wider share ownership, Mr John Marshall's questioning of the need for a Building Societies Bill (Business Letters, October 25) widely misses the mark.

First, any future new legislation is very unlikely to prevent any society that wishes to do so from converting to plc status, with the consent of its members. More importantly, his implication that plc status would promote greater efficiency is highly questionable. Even using a traditional plc cost-to-income ratio measure of efficiency, building societies have significantly outperformed the quoted banks in the past.

Finally, the people that really count — customers — would find Mr Marshall's implication that they would somehow benefit from greater competition if building societies were to disappear very surprising. Quite the reverse is true, with building societies providing strong competition to the banks on the high street, promoting home ownership and offering consumers excellent value products and services. The proposed new legislation would play an important role in offering societies the greatest possible flexibility

to respond to customers' changing needs over the long term.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN DAVIS,  
Chairman, Building  
Societies Association,  
3 Savile Row, W1

#### Ownership myth

From Mr Jim French Sir, Prior knowledge that the Building Societies Bill was to be dropped from the Queen's Speech could well account for the pussy-footing replies the Building Societies' Members' Association has received from the Building Societies Association.

It is not the societies that deserve more freedom and protection — it is the investors and borrowers. The Bill consultation document called for a code of conduct for societies. The BSA indicated it would not bring all points in the suggested code and the Treasury appeared disinclined to pursue the societies to bring in such a code.

It has often been stated that the societies which "pay billions of pounds a year in tax on their profits, wanted a clearer definition of the "two-year" rule on cash bonuses or share distributions. The an-

#### Age discrimination not solely based on cost but on false assumptions

From Mr Richard Worsley

Sir, Pennington (October 22) over-simplifies age discrimination in suggesting that it merely reflects the price of older workers. There are thousands of older people who do not want to be paid any more than younger employees, who are ready and willing to work.

#### Cedrician computer inflates the Gas bill

From Mr T.S. Mills

Sir, British Gas have just informed me that my monthly payments for the past year fell short of the amount due by £36. To adjust this they propose to increase my monthly payment by £12 per month. They express their estimate thus: "Total £622.22 divided by 12 equals £55.75."

This must have been done on the computer which worked out Cedric Brown's salary and bonuses. Yours faithfully,  
T.S. MILLS  
7 Seaburn Close,  
West Sussex.

#### Goldfish in deep water

From Annabel Geddes

Sir, Regarding the new Goldfish card (Oligas investigates the Goldfish card, October 24), my part-time gardener, surviving on social security benefits through lack of local work, has twice been sent the particulars of the card.

We have goldfish in our pond, but no gas in the village. Could the address lists have got mixed up? I fear they will sink, not swim. Yours faithfully,  
ANNABEL GEDDES,  
Gaston Manor,  
Tisbury,  
Nr Salisbury,  
Wiltshire.

# US train model coming down the line in UK

The privatised railways are destined to consolidate, writes Richard Thomson

For a glimpse of what the future may hold, Britain's newly privatised railways should look carefully at what is happening in America. After a decade of seemingly terminal decline, America's railway are celebrating an astonishing recovery with a wave of mergers and consolidation.

The biggest hostile takeover battle is that in which Norfolk Southern and CSX are fighting for control of Conrail, the main rail network of the North East of the US. The bidding is around \$8.5 billion and is likely to go higher yet. The winner will have a company with revenues of around \$14 billion and about 30,000 miles of track.

This is the third big railway deal to take place over the last 12 months. This year, Pacific Rail and Union Pacific merged to form a transport Leviathan in the western states, while Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Pacific combined in 1995.

From 31 railway companies in 1980, the number has shrunk to only eight. Four of those control more than 90 per cent of the business — two large companies in the west and two in the east. Many analysts believe there will soon be a single company running trains right across the country from east to west, radically cutting costs and delivery times. The consolidation has gone so far that the US Government is becoming worried that it may start to breach anti-trust rules. The Conrail bids are being carefully scrutinised for that reason.

What relevance does all this have for Britain? The answer is privatisation. I believe the same thing will happen in the UK," said James Higgins, railways analyst for Donald Lufkin & Jenrette. "Privatisation has had a huge effect in the US and will do so in Britain too." This should be music to the ears of the civil servants and railway officials who studied the American experience before plunging into the privatisation of British Rail.

Freight is by far the chief source of income on the US railroads. The less often freight cars have to be shunted into sidings and switched to another company's trains, so delivery is faster. CSX claims that a merger with Conrail would save \$350 million a year in costs and add \$200 million to revenues. Mr Higgins said that privatisation had produced a better interplay between cost and service, and growth in revenue and profits. "It's a win-win situation. In the past the British Government used the freight side of the business to subsidise the passenger side."

Freight is now a priority on US railroads and by far the chief source of income. British railway operators have certain advantages growing congestion on the roads and the change in the political climate against new road building, while trucking costs are likely to rise.

The process produces its own logic. Once the privatised rail companies have found their feet in Britain, US-style consolidation seems almost inevitable.

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## Brake on profits at Tandem Group

BY CLARE STEWART

**TANDEM GROUP.** Britain's second largest bicycle-maker, made slow progress in the first half of the year, held back by losses from the sale of its clothing operations.

Tandem, which makes well known names such as British Eagle, Claud Butler and Falcon, incurred a pre-tax loss of £3.5 million in the six months to July 28, compared with a profit of £2.11 million.

Robin Garland, chief executive, said: "Whilst these results are disappointing, the figures include £2.4 million relating to the disposal and closure of our clothing operations."

Tandem, which was formed a year ago with the merger of Casket, the cycle-maker, and EPG, a former horticulture business, is not paying an interim dividend.

The group, having sold off its clothing interests, said that there would be no further restructuring costs to come. Although it had taken longer than expected to get the group into shape, Tandem was now on track as a focused cycle business, Mr Garland said.

In total, the cycle operations showed a profit of £1.7 million in the first half, largely because of the strengths of the Falcon and Claud Butler brands. In its Townsend division, which includes the British Eagle and cycle accessories business, Tandem expects that cost savings and lower overheads at its large manufacturing plant at Leigh, Lancashire, will boost profitability.

Tandem has about 28 per cent of the UK market and, the group said, the outlook was bright, helped by moves such as the recent Department of Transport initiative to increase cycle use.

Tandem is also looking overseas, capitalising on its strengths as a large volume producer to supply markets in Europe where demand is high.

Nick Barram, an analyst at Greig Middleton, the broker, expects the group to move back into profit in 1997-98, and identifies considerable potential for the group if it is able to expand its core business in the UK and Europe. Shares in Tandem moved 4 p higher to 104 p.



Food for all seasons: the Dutch deal should allow Perkins to extend the market for its off-season imports. Howard Phillips, chief executive, says

## Body Shop offsets US loss with sales growth in Asia

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A STRONG performance in Asia offset another poor American showing and helped Body Shop to a 30 per cent leap in profits in the first half.

The company yesterday reported a pre-tax profit of £11.8 million for the six months to August 31, compared with £9.1 million a year ago.

The interim dividend has been raised 39 per cent to 1.5p, ahead of earnings per share which increased 29 per cent to 3.6p. This is in line with the Body Shop's policy — adopted after it abandoned hopes earlier this year of returning to private ownership — of bringing its dividend yield closer to the sector average.

The interim dividend is payable on January 9. Total retail sales grew 13 per cent but comparable store sales rose just 1 per cent. They were up 5 per cent in Asia, 5 per cent in Australasia and 1 per cent in the UK and Europe.

But in the United States they fell 5 per cent. The USA incurred an operating loss of £3.4 million, compared with a £2.4 million loss a year ago, while the UK's operating profit was flat at £2.9 million. Asia, by contrast, produced an operating profit of £6.5 million, up from £4.5 million.

In the first month after the end of the first half, total retail sales are 11 per cent ahead, but like-for-like sales are flat. In the UK in the past two months, like-for-like sales have slipped 2 per cent.

Gordon Roddick, chairman, who founded the business with his wife, Anita, chief executive, said that Asia "continues to be a dynamic expansion area".

The company has opened its first two stores in the Philippines and is set to open its first outlet in Korea in the next few months. Around half of the 63 new stores opened worldwide during the first half are in Asia.

In the whole of this year, around 125 stores will be opened, taking the total to around 1,500.

Mr Roddick said that turning round the struggling American business "was always going to be a long job. We have had a terrific assault from our competitors. But the trend is not worsening: like-for-likes were down 8 per cent a year ago".

Tempus, page 28



Roddick: profits advance

## Perkins rights to fund £15m Dutch purchase

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

**PERKINS FOODS** is expanding its fresh produce division through the £15.6 million acquisition of Desselkoen Group, one of the largest exporters of fresh fruit and vegetables and flowers in The Netherlands.

To finance the purchase, the company is to raise £15.5 million through a one-for-six rights issue at 74p per share.

The net proceeds of the rights issue will provide £8.7 million cash, while the balance of £6.9 million will be paid to Desselkoen's owners with £1.3 million new ordinary shares.

The acquisition and rights issue are expected to have a neutral impact on 1997 earnings per share.

The company believes that in the first full year, after acquisition, profitability of its fresh food division will be improved.

Vincent Desselkoen, owner of 80 per cent of the company's shares, died last summer. His widow and the company's managers, owners of the remaining 20 per cent of shares, took the decision to sell. Howard Phillips, chief executive of Perkins Foods, said that Desselkoen's management will remain with the company under the new ownership.

Perkins fresh produce divi-

Food for all seasons: the Dutch deal should allow Perkins to extend the market for its off-season imports. Howard Phillips, chief executive, says

tion imports off-season produce that it sells mainly to supermarkets in The Netherlands. The addition of Desselkoen, which sells produce grown in Dutch glass houses to the rest of Europe, should allow Perkins to extend the market for its off-season imports. Mr Phillips said.

The acquisition and rights issue are expected to have a neutral impact on 1997 earnings per share.

The company believes that in the first full year, after acquisition, profitability of its fresh food division will be improved.

In the year ended December 31, Desselkoen made a pre-tax profit of £2.64 million on turnover of £18.5 million.

The amount Perkins Foods will pay for the Dutch company is dependent on Desselkoen's profits this year being at least £3.1 million.

In the event of a shortfall, Perkins would pay less under the terms of the agreement.

## Lukewarm reception to Deep Sea's AIM debut

BY FRASER NELSON

**DEEP SEA LEISURE**, which runs Britain's largest aquarium, experienced a lukewarm reception to its debut on the Alternative Investment Market yesterday.

Its shares were placed at 160p, valuing the company at £10 million. Although none changed hands yesterday, they closed 2½p easier at 157½p.

The company, whose centre in Fife was recently named Scotland's best new tourist attraction of the decade, has raised £3.5 million from the flotation, which it will use towards opening a second centre in Cheshire.

Phil Crane, its founder and managing director, becomes a paper millionaire through the placing, with his 23½ per cent stake now valued at £2.31 million.

Dr Bogie said that Phase II clinical data has indicated that Hepagene has proven clinical superiority "and we believe it offers to help meet a serious unmet medical need in the community".

Phase II dose-range clinical trials concluded in 1995, indicated that Hepagene has highly immunogenic properties and is effective for people who do not respond adequately to existing vaccines against hepatitis B.

## Medeva survives Hepagene challenge

BY OUR CITY STAFF

**BIOGEN** UK yesterday lost its challenge to the patent for Hepagene, the hepatitis B drug developed by Medeva, the international pharmaceuticals company. The House of Lords dismissed Biogen's appeal, with costs.

Its shares were placed at 160p, valuing the company at £10 million. Although none changed hands yesterday, they closed 2½p easier at 157½p.

The company, whose centre in Fife was recently named Scotland's best new tourist attraction of the decade, has raised £3.5 million from the flotation, which it will use towards opening a second centre in Cheshire.

Medeva said that the judgment is the final verdict in this case, against which Biogen has no further appeal. William Bogie, Medeva's chief executive, said: "We have always believed that our case was strong. It was upheld in the Court of Appeal and has now been finally resolved in our favour once and for all in the House of Lords."

Dr Bogie said that Phase II clinical data has indicated that Hepagene has proven clinical superiority "and we believe it offers to help meet a serious unmet medical need in the community".

The centre has since become Scotland's third most popular tourist attraction, behind Edinburgh Castle and Edinburgh Zoo, drawing 400,000 visitors every year. Williams de Broe were the advisers on the placing.

## Premier Oil raises bid for Discovery

BY OUR CITY STAFF

**Premier Oil**, the UK oil exploration and production company, has increased its hostile takeover bid for Discovery Petroleum of Australia to A\$106.5 million (about £52 million) from A\$91.1 million.

The UK company said the new offer, which is worth 80 cents a share, was unlikely to be further increased. The original offer of 70 cents a share was quickly rejected by the Discovery board.

The revised terms were tabled after Steve Lowden, who is international manager of Premier Oil, met executives from Discovery in Perth to discuss the Australian company's production and exploration portfolio.

Mr Lowden, who returns to London today, said he planned to discuss the revised offer with Discovery executives in the near future.

Oil Search, an oil production and exploration company based in Papua New Guinea, purchased a 10.1 per cent stake in Discovery after the initial Premier bid. Mr Lowden said he had not discussed the bid with Oil Search but had met the company recently to discuss regional operations.

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# Revenues from oil and gas reach a six-year high

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

**SOARING** oil prices combined with a further rise in Britain's buoyant crude production to boost the value of oil and gas revenues to a six-year high in September.

Gas output also rose in September, according to Royal Bank of Scotland's monthly oil and gas index, increasing Britain's combined daily oil and gas revenues to £47 million, an increase of 25.3 per cent on year.

The advance represents good news for the UK oil industry and the balance of payments. However, it may not be welcomed by motorists, who seem certain to have to pay more for petrol over the next few weeks.

Stephen Boyle, head of business economics at the Royal Bank, said: "Oil stocks are considerably lower than in the last two years and leave prices vulnerable to sharp increases in demand if the winter weather is severe. It appears

revenues grew strongly in September, rising by more than £7 million to average £47 million. Revenues were 25.3 per cent higher than in September 1995. Average sterling oil revenues were £36.1 million per day, a rise of 16.8 per cent on the month. Gas revenues rose to £10.9 million a day.

The combination of continued high prices and further increases in output mean that revenues in 1996 will be significantly higher than in 1995.

In London, oil traded at \$23.80 a barrel yesterday, having peaked at \$25.18 in early October. Prices are being driven partly by low oil stocks.

Figures from the American Petroleum Institute show distillate stocks, which include heating oil, at 110 million barrels, considerably lower than in the two previous years when they measured about 130 million to 140 million barrels in the run-up to winter.

Combined daily oil and gas



Tony Mack plans to set up another overseas subsidiary

## Air charter firm heads higher

By KEITH RODGERS

AIR London International, the air charter broker, surprised the City yesterday by announcing a special 10p dividend after reporting a 104 per cent leap in full-year profits.

Pre-tax profits rose to £2.19 million, from £1.07 million, for the year to July 31 on turnover up 20 per cent to £35 million.

After a final dividend of 4.1p per share, net dividend for the year was up 50 per cent to 10p, payable on December 18. The further 10p per share special dividend will be paid at the same time, reflecting a 20 per cent increase in cash balances to £7.06 million.

The company's commercial aircraft division, which charters airlines for special events, saw a 20 per cent rise in sales.

Turnover at Air Partner International, the Paris-based subsidiary in which the company now has a 55 per cent stake, increased two-and-a-half times. The company plans to set up another overseas subsidiary, probably in Germany or Italy.

Tony Mack, chairman, also indicated that the group would look to set up in America in the long term.

## Dresdner advances despite income fall

DRESDNER BANK, the German commercial bank that owns Kleinwort Benson, reported a 29.7 per cent rise in nine-month profits, despite a surprising drop in trading income and stuck to its forecast for a solid double-digit rise in full-year earnings. Dresdner said operating profits rose to DM18.9 billion, after a 14.8 per cent rise in own-account trading profits to DM456.2 million, especially after Dresdner shaved trading earnings of DM382 million in the first half. Net commission income rose 42 per cent to DM2.8 billion, largely boosted by the integration of Kleinwort Benson.

Dresdner announced plans to launch a direct banking unit in the second half of 1997 and said it expected its commissions from the Deutsche Telekom issue to be in the double-digit millions of marks in the fourth quarter. Dresdner is one of the three global co-ordinators for the flotation.

## Publisher to cut staff

SOUTHERN NEWSPAPERS, whose publications include the *Southern Daily Echo* and the *Bournemouth Evening Echo*, is to shed up to 200 jobs, or 15 per cent of its workforce, over the next two years to reduce costs. The job cuts include 35 voluntary redundancies already agreed with staff at Southampton, Bournemouth and Basingstoke in Hampshire as a result of the company moving its eastern region publishing operation from the centre of Southampton to a £35 million publishing and printing centre on the outskirts of the city. Last month the group reported a 62 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £18.8 million in the year to June 29.

## PGP withdraws offer

SHARES of Gowings, the automotive distributor and Burger King franchisee, fell 8½p to 76½p yesterday after Guinness Peat Group, the investment firm, said that it would not be proceeding with an offer after failing to secure a recommendation from the Gowings board. Early last month Guinness Peat indicated that it was prepared to make a cash offer of not less than 90p a share. Guinness Peat is the largest shareholder in Gowings. GPG said it "remains convinced that Gowings' prospects are limited by the modest scale of its disparate businesses and that it would benefit from being part of a larger group".

## Eurotherm in US buy

EUROTHERM, the specialist engineering company based in Sussex, yesterday announced the \$11.2 million purchase of Viatran Corporation of Grand Island, New York. Viatran, with annual sales of about \$11 million, specialises in the design and manufacture of electro-mechanical pressure transducers that are widely used in the industrial and process control markets. Eurotherm said that Viatran would be able to strengthen its development capabilities and its worldwide distribution channels after the acquisition. Eurotherm shares fall 3½p to 61½p yesterday.

## Toyo jobs for Wales

WALES is welcoming its 51st Japanese manufacturing company today as Toyo Seal Industries announces a £2.4 million project at Wrexham, north Wales. This is Toyo's first investment outside Japan, and will result in the creation of 40 jobs. Osaka-based Toyo, which was established in 1928, produces rubber seals for use in the automotive industry. It employs 700 people in Japan. Toyo will move to a 25,000 sq ft factory at Wrexham, owned by the Welsh Development Agency, from where it will service customers throughout the UK.

## Bertam profits soar

BERTAM Holdings, the oil palm and rubber plantations company that operates in Malaysia, reported pre-tax profits of £15.39 million for the half-year to the end of June, including a £12.88 million surplus from the sale of a 997-hectare land site. Profits were £1.05 million in the first half of the previous year. Operating profits were £2.08 million, rising from £758,000 previously. Earnings were 65.70p a share, compared with 3.16p. There is again no interim dividend but a special dividend of 4p a share was paid on July 24.

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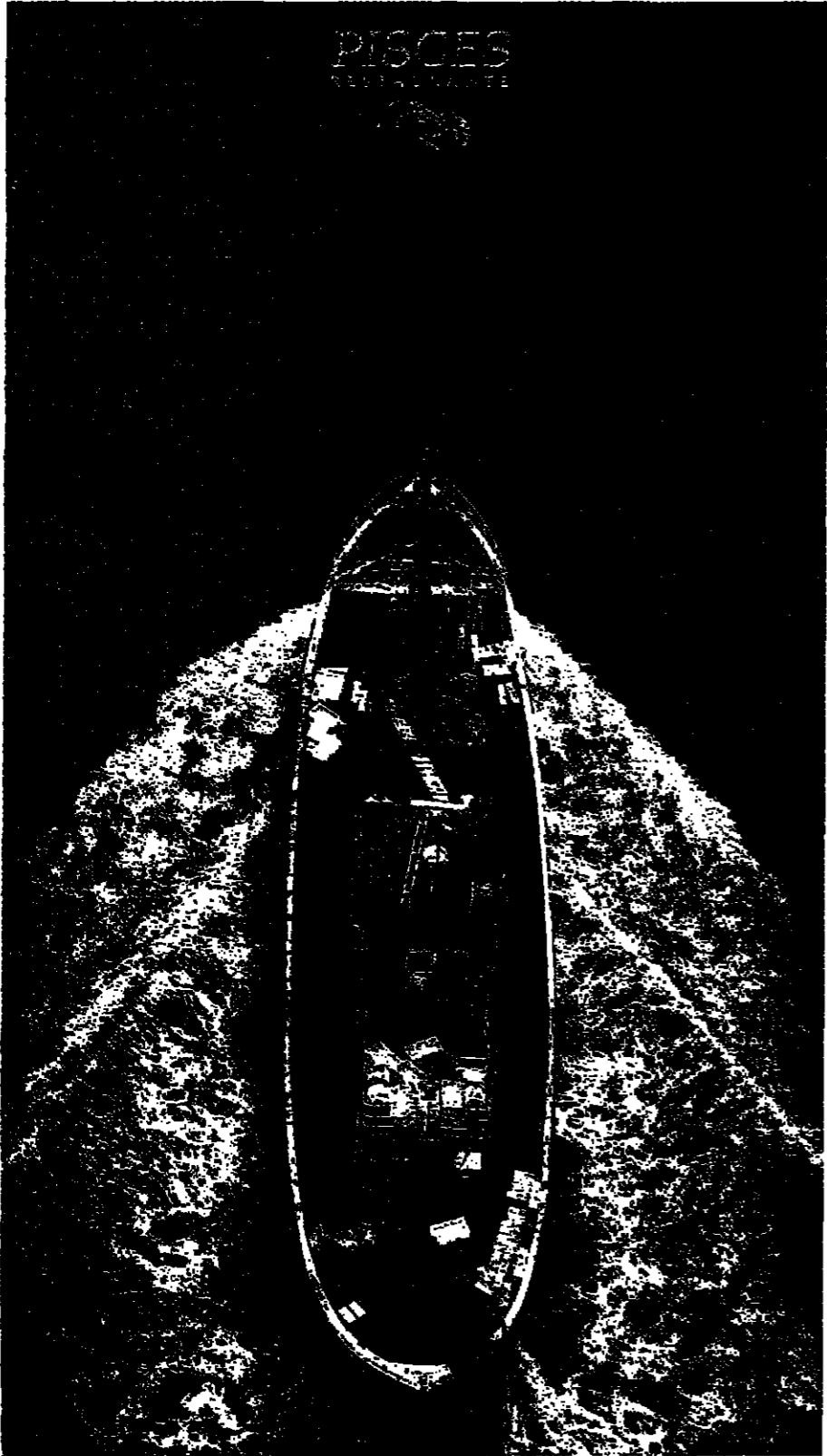
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## Law Report November 1 1996 House of Lords

## Genetic engineering patent claim was too broad

**Biogen Inc v Medeva plc**

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches October 31]

A claim to an invention of "a recombinant DNA molecule ... coding for HBsAg polypeptide ... displaying HBV antigen specificity" was not broad in that the same results could be produced by different means, and no new principle had been established. Accordingly, the claimed patent was invalid.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the plaintiff, Biogen Inc, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse) [1995] RPC 29, who on October 27, 1994, had allowed an appeal by the defendant, Medeva plc, from Mr Justice Adderley, the judge, on November 4, 1993, had given judgment for Biogen in its action against Medeva for infringement.

Mr Simon Thorley QC, Mr Andrew Waugh and Mr Justin Turner, for Biogen; Mr Peter Prescott QC, Mr Martin Howe QC and Mr Adrian Speck for Medeva.

LOD HOFFMANN said that the House of Lords had for the first time to consider the validity of a patent for a "method" of genetic engineering. That technology had developed only during the last 25 years, in consequence of great advances in knowledge of the genetic code contained in every living cell.

The code was embodied in a molecule of deoxyribonucleic acid, DNA, which directed the cell to make the proteins that the organism required. Genetic engineering, or "recombinant DNA technology", consisted of altering the DNA of a suitable cell so that it produced a protein that in nature occurred in another organism. In that way, it had been possible to manufacture products of great medical importance that could not have been made by orthodox chemical synthesis.

The principal claim of the patent in suit was for an artificially constructed molecule of DNA carrying a genetic code that, when introduced into a suitable host cell, caused that cell to make antigens of HBV.

HBV was a widespread human virus, often causing fatal diseases of the liver. Its antigens could be used both to test for whether someone had the virus and to make a vaccine that could give immunity against infection.

The patent was based on experi-

mental work done in 1978 by Professor Sir Kenneth Murray of Edinburgh University. Recombinant DNA technology had then been in its promising infancy.

In February, Professor Murray, other molecular biologists and financial backers had decided to found Biogen to exploit the technology for commercial purposes.

In November, Professor Murray had reported that he had produced two of the known HBV antigens in colonies of cultured bacteria.

On December 22, 1978, Biogen had filed a UK patent application describing what Professor Murray had done. That application, Biogen 1, formed the basis of a claim to priority in respect of a later application filed with the European Patent Office on December 21, 1979. The European patent had been granted on July 11, 1990, and opposition proceedings had been dismissed on appeal on July 28, 1994.

In 1992 Biogen had begun infringement proceedings against Medeva, which was proposing to market a third-generation hepatitis B vaccine made by recombinant DNA technology in colonies of mammalian cells. Medeva had counterclaimed for infringement, alleging that the patent was invalid on a number of grounds.

Those still relied on were: that the claimed invention was obvious from the prior art; that the technology had developed only during the last 25 years, in consequence of great advances in knowledge of the genetic code contained in every living cell.

The code was embodied in a molecule of deoxyribonucleic acid, DNA, which directed the cell to make the proteins that the organism required. Genetic engineering, or "recombinant DNA technology", consisted of altering the DNA of a suitable cell so that it produced a protein that in nature occurred in another organism. In that way, it had been possible to manufacture products of great medical importance that could not have been made by orthodox chemical synthesis.

The principal claim of the patent in suit was for an artificially constructed molecule of DNA carrying a genetic code that, when introduced into a suitable host cell, caused that cell to make antigens of HBV.

It was unclear whether they were supporting the matter disclosed in Biogen 1 and that it was accordingly entitled to the earlier priority date. He had dismissed all the objections and held the patent valid and infringed.

In the appeal, much turned on identifying the inventive step, if any, in what Professor Murray had done. There was no doubt that he had been the first person to make HBV antigens by recombinant DNA technology. It did not, however, follow that he had been inventive. The technology had

been developing very fast, and recent developments might have made its use for that purpose obvious. Even if it had not been, it did not follow that "making HBV antigens by recombinant DNA technology" would be the right way to describe his inventive step.

Whenever anything inventive was done for the first time it was the result of the addition of a new idea to the existing stock of knowledge. Sometimes, it was the idea of using a particular technique to do something that no one had previously thought of doing. That had been done with some success, but there were concerns about safety and supplies were limited by the number of donors.

Another theoretical possibility was to make the antigens artificially by orthodox chemical synthesis, but that required knowledge of the sequence and structure of the amino acids in DNA. In 1978, little had been known about them.

A promising alternative method had been recombinant DNA technology. That involved introducing a foreign DNA molecule, coding for a protein natural to a different organism, into a host cell in such a way that the artificially introduced gene was correctly transcribed and translated into the protein for which it coded.

Would it have been a new idea to think of making HBV antigens at all? Or would that have been a goal that people had thought about but had not known how to achieve?

If the latter, would it have been inventive to think in general terms of using recombinant DNA technology? Or would that also have been something that many molecular biologists would have wanted to do if only they could think of how to overcome particular difficulties that stood in their way?

A paper published in 1970 by D. S. Dane and others [1970] *Lancet* i, 695-698 had made the suggestion, which by 1978 had been generally accepted, that the infective agent of hepatitis B was a virus-like particle, 42 nanometres in diameter that had been found in the blood of infected people. The "Dane particle" appeared to include a circular molecule of DNA in a protein core and to be surrounded by a protein surface.

The immune system of a host organism could be stimulated to produce antibodies, proteins that attached themselves to the virus and rendered it non-infectious. The proteins in the virus that caused the production of antibodies were called antigens.

The relationship between antibody and antigen provided the

means of both diagnosing and vaccinating against infection by the virus. Antigens could be used for vaccination because once the immune system had been exposed to the antigen it would produce the relevant antibodies.

The Dane particle appeared to have at least two antigens, one at its core, HBcAg, and one on its surface, HBeAg. One way to obtain those antigens was to purify them from Dane particles taken from the blood of infected people. That had been done with some success, but there were concerns about safety and supplies were limited by the number of donors.

There was also a potential difficulty with introns or junk code sequences of nucleotides found in eukaryotic DNA that did not seem to code for anything. No introns had been found in prokaryotic DNA, and it had therefore been assumed that prokaryotic organisms like E. coli had no mechanism for removing introns.

That meant that the expression mechanism of a prokaryotic cell might be unable to cope with natural or genomic DNA coding for a protein natural to a different organism, into a host cell in such a way that the artificially introduced gene was being expressed in the recombinant DNA molecule and being expressed to produce a polypeptide displaying HBV antigen specifically when a suitable host cell transformed with said recombinant DNA molecule is cultured.

The claim was to a product, a recombinant DNA molecule characterized by a DNA sequence coding for a polypeptide or a fragment thereof displaying HBV antigen specificity, said DNA sequence being operatively linked to an expression control sequence in the recombinant DNA molecule and being expressed to produce a polypeptide displaying HBV antigen specifically when a suitable host cell transformed with said recombinant DNA molecule is cultured.

Having obtained his large fragments, Professor Murray had employed restriction enzymes to digest the DNA had been sequenced, revealing the genome had been sequenced before he had worked in the dark. Professor Murray had invented a way of working with the genome in the dark. But he had not switched on the light and once the light was on his method had no longer been needed.

Or course, there might be other problems, but Biogen 1 did not reveal how to solve them. Medeva, who used restriction enzymes based on knowledge of the HBV genome and mammalian host cells, owed nothing to Professor Murray's invention.

The next question was whether, given that Biogen 1 had disclosed

relevant gene or the part of the gene that expressed an antigenic fragment of the polypeptide.

Nor, once they could use vectors

for mammalian cells, would they

have been concerned with the

same problem of knowing that had so exercised those skilled in the art in 1978.

Of course, there might be other

problems, but Biogen 1 did not

reveal how to solve them. Medeva,

who used restriction enzymes

based on knowledge of the HBV genome and mammalian host

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Murray's invention.

The next question was whether,

given that Biogen 1 had disclosed

the genome had been sequenced, everyone had been working in the dark. Professor Murray had invented a way of working with the genome in the dark. But he had not switched on the light and once the light was on his method had no longer been needed.

It was said that what Professor

Murray had shown by his invention

was that it could be done.

HBV antigens could be produced

by expressing Dane particle DNA.

In a host cell.

Those who followed, even by

difference, could have greater

confidence by reason of his suc-

cess. But that was not enough to

justify a monopoly of the whole

field.

The Wright brothers had shown

that heavier than air flight was

possible, but that had not entitled

them to a monopoly of heavier

than air flying machines.

Care was needed not to stifle

further research and healthy com-

petition by allowing the first

person who had found a way of

achieving an obviously desirable

goal to monopolise every other

way of doing so.

His Lordship would hold that

Biogen 1 had not supported the

invention as claimed in the Euro-

pean patent and that it was

therefore not entitled to the priority

date of Biogen 1. As it was

conceded that the invention had

been obvious when the patent

application had been filed, it was

invalid.

LOD GOFF, agreeing, said

that he wished to express the

gratitude of the Appellate Com-

mittee to their expert advisers,

Professor D. Glover of the Uni-

versity of Dundee and Professor J.

Neil of the University of Glasgow,

who had provided the committee

with invaluable assistance both

before and during the hearing.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord

Mustill and Lord Slynn agreed.

Solicitors: Simmonds &

Simmons; Stringer Said.

## Unambiguous facts required

## Regina v Harrow Justices, Ex parte Jordan

Before Lord Bingham of Corhill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Blofeld

[Judgment October 21]

Where an offender had been released from prison on licence and committed a new offence during the currency of his licence the justices, in applying section 40 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, as amended, should either themselves deal with both the question of sentence for the new offence and that of revocation of the licence or commit the offender to prison for consideration of those questions.

It was unclear whether they were admitting actual knowledge or not. However, he was satisfied that in the present case he should proceed on the basis that the directors were not admitting actual knowledge and, after taking account of other admitted facts and various mitigating factors, made a disqualification order of six years from the date of the order.

His Lordship regarded a *Carecraft* statement in such a form as a possible abuse of the procedure.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Magwells.

the period already spent in prison on remand the applicant was almost immediately eligible for release in respect of the new offence.

Section 40 of the 1991 Act, as amended by section 16(8)(b) of and paragraph 47 of Schedule 9 to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, provides:

"(2) Subject to subsection (3) below, the court by or before which a prisoner released on licence who before the date on which he would have served his sentence in full commits an offence punishable with imprisonment (convicted of the new offence may, whether it was obvious. But the information had not been available in 1978).

That had proved conclusively that it was possible to express the DNA for the production of a eukaryotic cell protein, in that case, rat preproinsulin, by inserting it into pBR322 and transform-

40. It seemed plain that if the order to be made was that the period of return to prison should be served before the new sentence, the procedure was inappropriate.

The magistrates' court could not impose a new sentence before the period of return was ordered by the crown court, since the magistrates' court would not know whether that new sentence would start, and could not know whether the crown court would make an order for return at all.

One of two options in section 40(3)(b) was therefore ruled out.

There was an alternative that one element of the overall sentence, the period of return, should be dealt with by one court and another element by another.

The court, therefore rejected

the option of returning the offender to prison for the sentences to be concurrent.

That was the position here, since the three-month sentence expired within a few days of its being imposed and it would have been impossible in practical terms for the crown court to impose a sentence which could be concurrent with the new offence.

Miss Sarah Maguire for the applicant, Mr Stephen John for the DPP.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the question was whether the procedure adopted by the justices was one which could be reconciled with the terms of section 40 of the 1991 Act, as amended.

The justices had been asked to consider the question of sentence for the new offence.

Mr Justice Douglas Brown so held in the Queen's Bench Division on July 30 when finding in favour of Barking and Dagenham LBC.

A local authority owned, on common law, duty of care to a tenant when stating its opinion of the price of a property in a notice served under section 125 of the Housing Act 1985.

Mr Justice Douglas Brown so held in the Queen's Bench Division on July 30 when finding in favour of Barking and Dagenham LBC.

London Borough Council, the defendant in an action brought by David George Blake and Andrew Alfred Brooks, both tenants of the council each of whom had qualified to purchase his home under

the provisions of the 1985 Act and had elected to do so under that scheme.

The plaintiffs claimed that the council was liable in damages for negligence and/or breach of statutory representation. They alleged



## ■ THEATRE 1

A tale of two dildies: contrasting productions of Beckett's *Happy Days* in Paris and London



## ■ THEATRE 2

Ovid is all jokes in an updating of *The Metamorphoses* at the Battersea Arts Centre



## ■ THEATRE 3

A controversial success in Dublin, but *The Gay Detective* seems out of touch in Kilburn



## ■ MUSIC

At the Barbican Riccardo Chailly gets to grips with Mahler's shattering Tenth Symphony

**THEATRE:** A Beckett classic staged in London and Paris; updated Ovid; and a controversial Irish play in Kilburn

# Going down in style

If Samuel Beckett pic needed a trademark it might choose the image of two tramps waiting — in reference to his first most famous play. But other writers have written about tramps even. Anthony Newley has done it. Only one man has put on stage a woman "stuck up to her dildies" in the bleeding ground and kept her there, unable to shift, for the greater part of two hours.

For the last quarter of that time she has

**Happy Days**  
Almeida, N1

sunk in further, up to her neck, but still she goes through her repertoire of smiles and reproaches, yakking on to fill the hours between the bell that rings to wake her up and will ring again to announce the time to sleep.

Like Vladimir, Estragon and other Beckett characters, Winnie is trapped in the foetid enigma of life. She has found ways to kill time, but time refuses to stay dead, so that next day she is in the same place but worse off than before. It is *Groundhog Day* in hell.

Karel Reisz's production from Dublin's Gate Theatre is at the Almeida till the end of next week. Stuck up to her dildies, and then to her neck, in a mound of orange sand is Rosaleen Linehan, the splendid actress who was over here six years ago at the National, when she was dancing, at Lughnasa. Barry McGovern plays Willie, presumably her husband, conspicuously clambering into view to read not from *Reynolds' News* before returning to masturbate quietly behind the mound. He wears a 'Battle of Britain moustache' as bushy as Beckett's stage directions demand, but his bald wig is a joke.

Even before the play begins something remarkable is in place: a never-before-seen curtain across the front of the Almeida stage. The practical purpose of this is to enable the actress to be inserted into the

mound out of sight of the audience. You might suppose this or some shuffling around in a blackout are the only ways to start the play.

But ten days ago I discovered an alternative: at Peter Brook's Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord in Paris where his production of *Oh les beaux jours* — the French version of the play — is currently running. He later explained that his proscenium arch is so high that a curtain looked foolish,

and he had asked his actress, Natasha Parry, if she felt able to take her place in the mound while the audience watched.

So we saw her escorted to the surprisingly grassy lump in the middle of the stage and wriggle inside while a slab of turf was fitted behind her. Demonstrating the illusion of theatre is a very Brook solution, and the play's quality is diminished not a scrap.

There seem to be fewer laughs in the French text. At the Almeida they come in abundance during the first part but laughter dies after the interval as we gaze at Linehan's dismembered head, only her mouth and eyes moving, see the terror in her stare, hear the tremor of panic in her voice.

Earlier, while she still had arms to help her through the motions of elegant deportment, Linehan brings a touchingly absurd, hautier-to-démodéness, and also a touch of something of a sinner as it. Now, when she has only her eyes to act with, the fearful irony of her semi-maniacal blears of thanks for mercies received — "Oh this will have been a happy day" — generate in the observer a kind of irritated pity.

From time to time my attention wandered away, as it also did in Paris, but suppose this is exactly what Beckett's old 'teaser' that he was intended.

The high priestess Juno is reduced to a spiteful, jealous wife. When her husband Jupiter is confronted with

the fact that his brother Pluto has carried Proserpine off into the Underworld, he simply retorts: "Yeah.

So what of it?"

Humour which, relies on shock value like this is effective, but can lose its edge from over use.

All these mythical tales unfold on a circle of sand (designed by Sarah Blenkinsop), while a septet of musicians accompanies, and sometimes dictates, the action with Paul Clark's original compositions. Nine performers dance, mime and sometimes sing, stories, freely interchanging roles for each one.

At worst, this is uncomfortably

reminiscent of those music and movement classes they made us do at primary school, with everyone emoting like mad.

At best, an atmosphere and an emotion is genuinely conjured — such as when Hecate rises from her cave and tries to prevent Proserpine's abduction, or when Phaethon careers out of control in Apollo's chariot.

There is no doubt that the Ensemble is a talented bunch of performers — their work is slickly presented and they are attempting a refreshing reinvention of the interplay between music and action on stage. Their chosen performance style is intention-

ally mannered, as befits their arch and self-referential approach. At times this slips over into self-consciousness, and you long for them all to stop acting so ostentatiously.

If they could broaden their emotional repertoire the sense would be dispelled that their work errs on the side of the inconsequential. And all the better if this could be achieved without losing their characteristic charm. Like the unforgettable moment when Juno, annoyed that one of the violinists has seduced Jupiter with her virtuoso playing, takes a brutal revenge by snapping all the violin's strings with wire-cutters.

DONALD COOPER



Barry McGovern and Rosaleen Linehan, "trapped in the foetid enigma of life" in Karel Reisz's production of *Happy Days*, now at the Almeida

## Some sterling notes in all the louche change

YOU would expect a show based on Ovid called *The Metamorphoses* and performed by a physical-musical theatre company to be full of magical transformations: women into trees, men into rays of sunlight and so on.

To some extent the Clod Ensemble disappoints in this regard, with the notable exception of the disconcerting Lycian peasants, who are most enjoyably turned into frogs. Instead, the ensemble recipients of the 1996 Christopher Whalen Award for musical theatre, has given us a jokey, contemporary stand on the gods and their amorous bickering.

The high priestess Juno is reduced to a spiteful, jealous wife. When her husband Jupiter is confronted with

the fact that his brother Pluto has carried Proserpine off into the Underworld, he simply retorts: "Yeah. So what of it?"

### The Metamorphoses BAC, SW1

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CLARE BAYLEY

## It's a fair cop

GERARD STEMBRIDGE's new play for the Project Arts Centre set pulses racing when it first opened in Dublin. Set in 1993, the year in which homosexuality was legalised in Ireland, it follows the fortunes of a young, gay Garda officer ordered to infiltrate the homosexual underworld to crack a link with the drugs trade.

Hardly the stuff of sensation, but in a staunchly Catholic country where the stigma of being gay is not worn lightly, this is still sensitive territory. Arming his protagonist with a droll wit and unfliching integrity, Stemberidge launches Peter Hanly's Pat onto the

**The Gay Detective**  
Tricycle, NW6

mean streets like the hero of a Raymond Chandler novel. A government minister needs to be protected; a drug dealer needs to be collared.

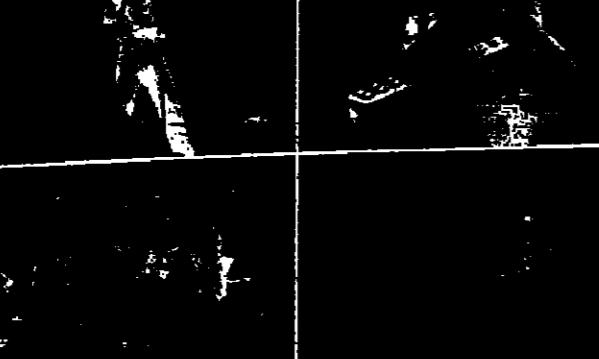
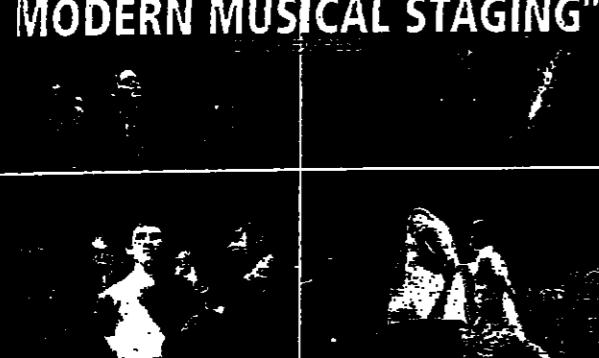
Hardly is our bound on the set when he falls in love with a victim of a vicious queer-bashing incident. When a politician is found murdered outside a homosexual sauna, Pat finds himself on the dangerous fringe of a political scandal involving several well-insulated public figures.

Stemberidge seems to be making a point by depicting a thriving, well-established gay community. But for all the graphic scenes of men having sex with men, its dramatic scenario is decidedly weak. Beyond the love story, woefully manipulated by the sudden revelation that his lover Ginger is HIV positive, the play is little more than a series of sketchy diversions in which we see the predictable disintegration of Pat's enthusiasm and integrity.

Pat, touchingly enthralled to Eddie Tighe's nicely understated Ginger, but every other character is a two-dimensional stereotype. Middle-aged men are either malevolent rapists of young rent boys or mincing closet queens: the young are uniformly exploited. Perhaps Stemberidge's hard point is that this is what legislation against homosexuality has produced in Ireland. If it is, it feels distinctly out of touch in Kilburn.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

## "COMPLETELY REDEFINES MODERN MUSICAL STAGING"



LONDON CONCERTS: Stunning Mahler; idiomatic Dvořák

## Epic way to say goodbye

LSO/Chailly  
Barbican

THERE could hardly have been a finer tribute to the late Berthold Goldschmidt than the London Symphony Orchestra's performance dedicated to his memory, of Mahler's Symphony No 10. Goldschmidt had been a vital collaborator in the performing version of Mahler's final symphony prepared by Deryck Cooke, and first performed in its entirety by Goldschmidt and the LSO in 1964.

Riccardo Chailly's performance made the work seem as rich and as strange as it must always remain. The LSO had played themselves in with Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem*: it showed the first signs of a suppleness of ensemble and a fine balance of detail and long-sighted vision which was to characterise the Mahler.

Chailly's skill throughout was to sharp-focus the individual moment and yet to sense its place in the highly-strung nervous system of the whole. The violins' long, desolate opening melody was moulded like wet clay, yet as soon as it was fired into focused tonality by the strings, Chailly moved the music on robustly. As solo voices and masks were uncovered, vibrant and attack were intense: Chailly's body seemed at times charged with static electricity.

seemed a dry, hollow echo of human song itself.

Chailly's command of the long finale, with its numb offstage drum-strokes, was masterly. As pitch gradually faded into bare rhythm, only to rise again into the light, the LSO responded warmly both to Chailly's imaginative vision and to his sensitive physical pacing of Mahler's passionate envoi to the world.

HILARY FINCH

## Troubles forgotten

Czech PO/Pesek

Festival Hall

colouring yet never fails to uplift the listener. Pesek is not a conductor to linger, even when the musical mood invades it. He gave the slow movement unusual fervour and ended with a whirl of jubilation.

One could enjoy much instrumental distinction within the orchestra's ranks surprisingly still all male apart from the two harpists. In particular the leader (whom I took to be Bohumil Kotnel) contributed violin solos of fluent delicacy. The richest sonorities were saved for Janáček's colourful rhapsody *Taras Bulba*, to end the programme. In between, Mikhail Pletnev stepped out as a piano soloist of exemplary clarity and flexibility in Beethoven's First Concerto. A welcome tenderness infused the middle movement, and the subtle gradations of tone in the finale compensated for smoothing the syncopations too much.

The US election has up, Bernard Williams discusses life after White's Professorship of Moral Philosophy. Archie Brown interviews Mikhail Gorbachev and Lisa Jardine uncovers an Elizabethan recipe. Read Perspectives, this week in The Times Higher Education Supplement.

## Highly theoretical moral philosophy

is abstract and falsified. Its theories tend to be artificial academic constructs, very little to do with

how people live their lives.

John Davies  
on Bernard Williams

## WHERE BILL CLINTON AND MORALS COME TOGETHER.

## 66 The President has a sexual harassment charge awaiting him when he finally leaves office, and the Whitewater scandal has seen former associates growled and suggestions that

Hillary Clinton may be indicted.

New Richards  
on the US election

## 66 Highly theoretical moral philosophy

is abstract and falsified. Its theories

tend to be artificial academic

constructs, very little to do with

how people live their lives.

John Davies  
on Bernard Williams

Thursday 14 November 7.30pm  
**RIMSKY-KORSAKOV** Russian Easter Overture  
**PROKOFIEV** Piano Concerto No 3  
**SHOSTAKOVICH** Symphony No 5 in D minor  
**YOUNG MUSICIANS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
25th Anniversary Series  
James Maile conductor Stephen de Pledge piano  
Lib - £10.00 - £12.00 - £14.00 - £16.00 - £18.00 - £20.00 - £22.00 - £24.00 - £26.00 - £28.00 - £30.00 - £32.00 - £34.00 - £36.00 - £38.00 - £40.00 - £42.00 - £44.00 - £46.00 - £48.00 - £50.00 - £52.00 - £54.00 - £56.00 - £58.00 - £60.00 - £62.00 - £64.00 - £66.00 - £68.00 - £70.00 - £72.00 - £74.00 - £76.00 - £78.00 - £80.00 - £82.00 - £84.00 - £86.00 - £88.00 - £90.00 - £92.00 - £94.00 - £96.00 - £98.00 - £100.00 - £102.00 - £104.00 - £106.00 - £108.00 - £110.00 - £112.00 - £114.00 - £116.00 - £118.00 - £120.00 - £122.00 - £124.00 - £126.00 - £128.00 - £130.00 - £132.00 - £134.00 - £136.00 - £138.00 - £140.00 - £142.00 - £144.00 - £146.00 - £148.00 - £150.00 - £152.00 - £154.00 - £156.00 - £158.00 - £160.00 - £162.00 - £164.00 - £166.00 - £168.00 - £170.00 - £172.00 - £174.00 - £176.00 - £178.00 - £180.00 - £182.00 - £184.00 - £186.00 - £188.00 - £190.00 - £192.00 - £194.00 - £196.00 - £198.00 - £200.00 - £202.00 - £204.00 - £206.00 - £208.00 - £210.00 - £212.00 - £214.00 - £216.00 - £218.00 - £220.00 - £222.00 - £224.00 - £226.00 - £228.00 - £230.00 - £232.00 - £234.00 - £236.00 - £238.00 - £240.00 - £242.00 - £244.00 - £246.00 - £248.00 - £250.00 - £252.00 - £254.00 - £256.00 - £258.00 - £260.00 - £262.00 - £264.00 - £266.00 - £268.00 - £270.00 - £272.00 - £274.00 - £276.00 - £278.00 - £280.00 - £282.00 - £284.00 - £286.00 - £288.0

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**CHOICE 1**  
Emma Kirkby is  
featured in the  
Clerkenwell  
Music Series  
VENUE: From today,  
Holy Redeemer Church



**CHOICE 2**  
Eleanor Bron  
joins Prunella  
Scales in A  
*Perfect Ganesh*  
VENUE: In preview.  
West Yorkshire Playhouse



**CHOICE 3**  
Jane Austen's  
*Northanger Abbey*  
comes to the  
Northampton stage  
VENUE: Opens tonight  
at the Theatre Royal



**POP 1**  
The poignant life  
of Phil Lynott  
is recalled in  
one of several  
new books about  
the rock world

## LONDON

**CLERKENWELL MUSIC SERIES**  
1996 Copenhagen's celebration as the  
1996 European Capital of Culture is  
celebrated in a 400-year retrospective of  
Danish music from the 1590s to 1995.  
The tour includes visits to 15  
7.30pm with a Sung Mass, *Our Saints*,  
Dai Taylor, singing soprano, and  
includes the Danish composer Carl  
Nielson's famous vire quatuor.

Tickets £10-£12.50. Mon-Sat 7.30pm;  
Tuesday, 7.30pm; Wednesday, 7.30pm;

Wednesday, 7.30pm; Friday, 7.30pm;

Wednesday, 7.30pm; Saturday, 7.30pm;

Wednesday, 7.30pm



## ■ POP 2

Spice Girls successfully transfer their brand of froth and attitude to a new album



## ■ POP 3

... while the President of the USA return with a mixture of oddball humour and romping rock



## ■ POP 4

With a little help from his friends: Babyface musters starry backing for *The Day*



## ■ POP 5

... but the eerie industrial album from The Future Sound of London is only for diehard fans

# Wannabe in their gang? Oh, yeah

**POP ALBUMS:** Spice Girls follow up two smash hit singles with a debut LP that has David Sinclair joining their fan club

**SPICE GIRLS**

*Spice* (Virgin 7243 8 42174) THE editor of *Smash Hits* called him "Oasis with a Wonderbra", and she could be right. For while Oasis have forged mainstream pop from the crucible of "serious" rock'n'roll, Spice Girls are travelling in the opposite direction, taking a pure pop formula and living it a surprisingly credible edge. Their reward may well be success, and possibly even respect, in a scale to rival that of Oasis.

It is tempting to dismiss *Spice* on first hearing as just another frothy confection for the kids. Like all good pop it has an air of energetic liveliness, and more bounce than beat. But you do not have to be a re-pubescent girl to appreciate the genuine sense of resolve that runs like a thin thread of steel through the ten tracks.

Unlike predecessors such as Bananarama, the Girls are more of a gang than a group, a development which entails a fundamental shift in the emotional priorities of their songs. "God help the misted bat comes between me and my sisters" is the message of *Love Thing*, echoing the girl power/solidarity theme of their massive worldwide hit *Wannabe*.

Peppered with slogans such as "I'm choosy, not a floozy", the album has a constantly assertive ring about it, yet always favouring guile and wit above aggression. And on *Naked*, a slow song full of sexual tension, in which a voice on a telephone insists "I'd rather be hated than pinned", they hint at a depth of feeling that goes well beyond the superficial charm of traditional teen-pop.

**JOE HENDERSON**

*Joe Henderson Big Band* (Verve 533 451-2) SINCE signing with Verve in 1991, Joe Henderson has rightfully been recognised as one of the music's most skilful, thoughtful tenor players. His cultured, musically approach gracing projects ranging from a tribute to Miles Davis to explorations of the music of Billy Strayhorn and Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Big-band work, however, has not figured in his discography until now. Recorded in two bursts, the first in 1992 with a stellar New York line-up, the second in 1996 with Chick Corea an occasional guest, this album takes a number of Henderson's finest compositions — *Isotope*, which receives a

**THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA II**

(Columbia)

FROM ZZ Top to the Ramones, America has sustained a long line of cartoon bands that can really rock. Successfully defending their status as the grunge incumbents of this noble tradition, the Seattle-based Presidents of the United States of America return with a second album which combines relaxed, oddball humour with lots of lean but muscular riffing.

*Ladies and Gentlemen I simultaneously punctures and celebrates the romantic myth of rock'n'roll: "Good evening ladies and gentlemen/Are you prepared to rock?" This is the show, we are the band/Sometimes it just takes you by the hand."*

What follows is a good-natured romp through songs about racing cars (*Mach 5, Bug City*), girls (*Supermodel, L.I.P.*) and the thrill of rocking out (*Tube Amplifier, Volcano*). Genghis Khan, Darth Vader and Mick Jagger all get a namecheck along the way and, while the band's knockout approach tends to work better on stage or with video accompaniment, their absurdist tendencies are sufficiently held in check not to diminish the impact of the music on a more basic level.

**THE FUTURE SOUND OF DEAD CITIES**

(Virgin 7243 8 42231)

ALTHOUGH *Dead Cities* is a more structured song than the Future Sound of London's most successful album, *Lifeforms*, re-

leased in 1994, it is still a mysterious and highly impressionistic piece of work.

The musical architecture erected by the duo of Garry Cobain and Brian Dougans is an unpredictable tangle of industrial sounds, trip hop drum-machine beats, ethereal chorales, buzzy synthesizer effects and gentle piano interludes.

The result, as confirmed by the album's artwork, is an eerie, if

rather familiar, sci-fi vision of the city as a scarred, sprawling organism, ripe for takeover by alien beings: *X-Files* meets *War of the Worlds* in glorious, ambient-techno sound.

**BABYFACE**

*The Day* (Epic 495368)

HE MAY BE one of the most successful American artists of the

decade, but curiously, Babyface has never placed an album of his own in the British chart. Still, as the writer and producer of a slew of international hits for acts including Whitney Houston, Boyz II Men, Toni Braxton, Celine Dion and Madonna, the bulge of his address book is second only to that of Quincy Jones.

He calls in a few favours on *The Day*, recruiting Mariah Carey to

sing backing vocals on *Every Time I Close My Eyes*, Stevie Wonder to co-write and play harmonica on *How Come*, How Long and Eric Clapton to add discreet touches of blues guitar on *Talk to Me*.

But their presence is merely icing on the cake, and the enterprise is very much dominated by the supremely stylish presence of Babyface himself. A latterday crooner with an impressive com-

mand of traditional soul idioms, the man performs with plenty of emotion, but spends the entire album stuck in ballad mode, lost in a succession of reveries about the good old days, the sexual prowess of his lover and, on the title track, the day his wife gave him a son. There will be plenty of winning singles to choose from, but the cumulative effect is decidedly soporific.

## Massive attack

**JAZZ ALBUMS**

robust arrangement from Slide Hampton, *Black Narcissus* and the peppy latinate hard-bop staple *Recordare* among them — and subjects them to tasteful but robust workouts.

**ERIC REED**

*Musicale* (Impulse IMP 11962)

UNSURPRISINGLY, since he and a number of other musicians on this elegant album are alumni or current members of Wynton

Marsalis's various bands, pianist Eric Reed is steeped in the jazz tradition from New Orleans piano to avant-garde saxophone, from gospel through swing to hard bop and beyond.

Using two bands — a conventional piano trio and a quartet with a trumpet/alto front-line — Reed explores all these areas in some varied but consistently cogent originals, ranging from a perky Art Blakey tribute, through a rollicking, percussive rumble dedicated to Professor Longhair, to the album's standout track: a dramatic trumpet/saxophone dialogue, *Pete and Repeate*, intentionally reminiscent of the music of Ornette Coleman and Eric Dolphy.

**CHRIS PARKER**

## Rock and a hard place

**Caitlin Moran** has some advice for anyone considering life as a pop star: forget it, Jim

this, until they eventually collapse.

Here are some facts: bands get between 6 and 12 per cent of the money earned on records. However, from this tiny percentage, certain deductions are made: the cost of making albums (even though, in many cases, the record company still owns the masterstapes); TV ads; 50 per cent of the cost of making a video. If a "name" producer is employed for the album, he will often want a percentage of the profits, which is taken from the hand.

On top of this, bands earn smaller royalties from any packaging novelty (postcards, two-CD singles packages); from selling their records through music clubs; or having their songs on compilation

TOP TEN ALBUMS	
1 <i>Bliss is the Colour</i> .....	<i>Beautiful South (Go! Discs)</i>
2 <i>Greatest Hits</i> .....	<i>Simply Red (East West)</i>
3 <i>A Different Beat</i> .....	<i>Boyzone (Polydor)</i>
4 <i>Falling Into You</i> .....	<i>Celine Dion (Epic)</i>
5 <i>Anthology 3</i> .....	<i>Beatles (Apple)</i>
6 <i>Dance Into the Light</i> .....	<i>Phil Collins (Face Value)</i>
7 <i>Recurring Dream — Best of</i> .....	<i>Crowded House (Capitol)</i>
8 <i>Ocean Drive</i> .....	<i>Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)</i>
9 <i>Only Human</i> .....	<i>Dina Carroll (Mercury)</i>
10 <i>The Score</i> .....	<i>Fugees (Columbia)</i>

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# Sir Ron goes shopping

The leader of the Dearing committee believes we can learn from Japan, says John O'Leary

**W**hen Sir Ron Dearing embarked on his review of higher education, the first place he went for ideas was Japan. This raised eyebrows on British campuses where 'all' but a select few Japanese universities are regarded as weak.

But, on this visit at least, Sir Ron's interest was in quantity, not quality. Japan has reached the levels of participation in higher education to which a new British government is likely to aspire, and has done so without breaking the bank or creating widespread graduate unemployment.

Sir Ron remained impressed by the scale of Japan's achievement and convinced that there were some lessons to be learnt, not from the top universities, but

The leading universities certainly have high standards

from the lower regions of a highly stratified system. Like the politicians who commissioned him, he recognises the pressure for renewed expansion, but is determined to channel growth into productive areas. In all probability, that means a new generation of two-year courses, rather than yet more honours degrees. One possible model has been examined by the Dearing committee this month in America, where community colleges provide an established alternative to a university degree. The other is Japan's mixture of liberal arts and vocational colleges.

Though neither country closely parallels Britain's education system, Japan's is the closer in some respects. In particular, with more than a third of school-leavers going on to university, Japan has a participation rate similar to Britain's. However, when the two-year colleges are added in, the rate hovers around 50 per cent. There lies the prize, but also



Tokyo students relaxing: Japan's higher education system impressed Sir Ron Dearing

than settling for an associate degree. Sister Bernier says that smaller classes and a work ethic that is often absent in universities bring the best out of students who might otherwise drop out of education or have to settle for a lowly regarded degree.

Sir Ron liked the flexibility of the system, with its choice of stages at which to cash in qualifications, and also its breadth. At the 3,000 Special Training Colleges (also mainly private) students can join after junior high school and take a five-year course in vocational subjects alongside the basic curriculum.

The universities, too, give undergraduates a general education for the first half of their degree courses, specialising only in the final two

years. There have been moves towards earlier specialisation, especially in some of the 400 private institutions, but the principle of giving students breadth of knowledge remains important throughout Japan's higher education.

In other respects, however, British academics' scepticism appears well-founded. Quality is highly variable and the Japanese method of funding universities and colleges, with high fees paid almost entirely by parents, will have little to commend it to members of Sir Ron's committee.

Indeed, the Japanese education ministry has a whole department devoted to university reform. There are demands for a more productive and diverse system to cater for the wider range of abilities and expectations in the larger student body of the 1990s.

Top companies limit their recruitment to universities at the top of a rigid ranking based almost entirely on entrance scores. So, having worked long and hard to win a

place, and with the prospect of a punishing working schedule to come, university life is seen as the one chance for the Japanese to enjoy themselves for a sustained period.

Both the universities and the Government are keen to expand postgraduate education, which has always been a minority interest. But most businesses remain wedded to the idea of training and moulding graduates according to their own requirements, and students are reluctant to turn down the chance of secure employment.

As in the schools, the Japanese are as keen to borrow from Britain as we are from them. A group is to visit Britain soon to collect its own tips on measuring and improving quality in higher education. The two systems may have a lot more in common before long.

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BT EDUCATION ROADSHOW

## How to look good in the league tables

Martin Stephen offers a survival guide for head teachers prepared to sacrifice their principles

Peter Wilkes is an excellent headmaster and one of my oldest friends, so I was particularly shocked to hear that he had lost his job as Head of Cheltenham College, apparently because his governors were dissatisfied with that school's performance in the league tables. Half the boys gained A or B grades and 20 got into Oxford or Cambridge.

There are four distinct types or categories of league table available to the consumer. All can be fiddled.

The easiest table of all will be published this month from the Government's official examination statistics. The positively byzantine rules and regulations take no account of large numbers of pupils who actually sit and pass GCSEs, while large numbers of pupils who, by age, qualify for GCSEs but who did not actually sit them, are counted as failures.

Just to show that idiocy does not stop at GCSE, the Government also includes General Studies A level as a proper A level in these statistics, even though no one else does. Very few good universities accept it as an entry requirement; none accepts it as the equivalent of a proper A level.

So lesson number one for the head who is keen to succeed is to enter everyone who can spell their own name for General Studies A level. It boosts the points score beyond belief.

After that, it gets a little harder, but not much. The main batch of league tables are based on the findings of ISIS (the Independent Schools Information Service). These do not include General Studies A level, but there is no need to panic.

The answer is simple, although it might take a couple of years to get up and

running. First response: if your school is selective, persuade the top half of your pupils to go for four A levels. Since the tables work by adding up the total points scored achieved and dividing it by the number of pupils sitting A levels, you do not need a GCSE in mathematics to work this one out.

Of course, a lot of your entry might not be bright enough to sit a fourth A level.

Worry not. In its wisdom, the Government has invented AS levels, equal to half an A level in terms of points scored.

If your school is a little more comprehensive than some others, this is your answer. Many of those who can manage only an E

**Lesson One:**  
enter everyone  
for General  
Studies at  
A level

at A level can get a C grade at AS level, and even an F is still one more point. Make every one of your pupils sit an AS level, regardless of whether they want to or not, and just look at the way you bungle up the league tables.

Some weak-hearted colleagues and parents might complain, of course. Traditionally, only 75 per cent of the sixth-form curriculum has been given over to examined subjects. Time for that fourth A level or the AS level has to be taken away from the remaining 25 per cent. So goodbye to a stimulating General Studies programme that could not be examined.

One or two other league tables are a little more tricky. The Daily Telegraph one operates on grades A-B at A

level alone, so the General Studies or the AS tricks do not work, but the fourth A level, if one's entry is bright, works satisfactorily. The Financial Times is so complicated that even its own statistician does not seem to understand it, but ends up, year in and year out, proving the same thing as everyone else's league table.

But if you really want to hit the heights, you need to bite a few bullets. How could any reasonable head allow pupils through into his sixth form who were not guaranteed an A or a B grade at A level? If you have been a good head, you have probably allowed any pupil to stay on in your sixth form who is working reasonably hard, even if an F grade will for them be a major achievement.

This must change immediately: the pupil who will be lucky to get an F grade simply has to go. And while you are at it, refuse your weaker candidates the right to sit A levels with you.

If you are really brave, fiddle the return to ISIS. Refuse to enter any examinations that are the subject of appeal — appeal meaning that you do not agree with the results.

**T**he major things not to do? Do not enter 85 per cent of your candidates for only three A levels. Do not fail to enter them all for General Studies A level. Do not fail to enter them all for at least one A/S level. If you fail in any one of these areas, you are mad. Unfortunately, by that criterion, the Manchester Grammar School is certifiably insane.

If Peter Wilkes had done all these things, he might still be Head of Cheltenham College after September.

• The author is Head Master of the Manchester Grammar School.



RUGBY LEAGUE: QUALITIES DISPLAYED BY BRITAIN'S YOUNG CAPTAIN AUGUR WELL

# Leadership of Farrell survives test of adversity

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE IN CHRISTCHURCH

SOME critics felt vindicated after the Test series had been lost in New Zealand in believing that Denis Betts, six years the senior of Andrew Farrell, should have been appointed captain of the Great Britain rugby league team instead of the younger man. Yet one of the most positive aspects to emerge from what has been, in terms of results, a humbling tour, is that Farrell has demonstrated the leadership qualities which make Phil Larder, the Great Britain coach, believe he will continue to grow into the job.

David Poulter, the former Castleford chairman, who is one of the club's major shareholders, has dismissed reports that Ron Hill, a former player and director, has tabled a take-over bid. Poulter said: "If I felt there was somebody coming along who could take the club forward, I would possibly consider selling my shares, but at the minute, there is nothing on the table."

The fact that Farrell is still 21, and the youngest Britain captain by three years, is often overlooked because of the maturity he demonstrates. He is two years younger than the average age of the team – and when he praises "the youngsters", he forgets to include himself in that category.

Farrell has more medals and battle-scars than most, having broken into the Wigan side at 17 and become the youngest forward to play for the national team the next year.



Farrell, the tenacious Great Britain captain, believes the young side can only get better, despite defeat

forgotten. I would, though, be upset if we're still saying then that this side has gained experience and improved, yet we've been whitewashed by the Aussies. What this tour has given us is a bigger pool of international talent, and that can only be an advantage."

Farrell, like players and administrators throughout the game, is putting faith in the proposed world club series next year to raise standards in

Britain and, especially now, halt the growing and potentially ruinous exodus to rugby union. To those league players now wintering in union, the struggle to pay players' wages out in New Zealand might suggest that they are better off staying put.

The world series finals and Australia's tour should shut off the temporary union option in 1997 and end the Little England mentality in league.

"The New Zealand players are used to the intensity of competition, playing in Australia. Some lads have struggled and will go home knowing there are better players out there, but if our clubs are going to be meeting six Australasian Super League teams a season we're going to improve," Farrell said.

"When we've lost to Australia before, we've had the inquests, looked for three or

four months for ways of catching up, then forgotten about them until the next beating. We won't now get the chance to rest on our laurels, if we're playing the best sides in the world regularly."

Although this Britain side must feel that they have been kicked in the hindquarters, as, indeed, Ridge promised they would be, Farrel at the helm for the foreseeable future, all may not be lost.

## SNOOKER

### Morgan in superb form for Wales

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

AN ELDER statesman and three of the game's younger generation contributed to a successful day for the Welsh contingent at the World Cup here at the Amari Watergate Hotel yesterday.

Wales opened their challenge by beating Holland 6-3 in group three while the United Arab Emirates, who are coached by Doug Mountjoy, former United Kingdom champion from Pontypool, surprisingly defeated China 5-4 in group C.

Darren Morgan, the world No 9, played a captain's innings by winning all three of his frames against Raymond Fabre, Mario Wermann and Johan Oenema. In doing so he also compiled breaks of 67, 44, 50 and 53.

Anthony Davies of Barry, also won two frames but Mark Williams, jaded as a result of his triumph in the Grand Prix at Bournemouth five days ago, lost to Fabre the world No 261 and to Wermann ranked No 287.

Mountjoy, 54, now resides in Dubai where his vast experience and technical knowledge have proved invaluable to Masood Aidi an accountant, Mohammad Sultan Al Jeker, a policeman, and Mohammed Shahab, a university student, who comprise the UAE team.

China may not be represented by household names but their growing reputations were enhanced by an unexpected 5-4 victory over Thailand, the tournament's fifth seeds on Tuesday.

The Republic of Ireland moved to the head of group A with a 7-2 victory over Belgium. Despite the margin, the scoreline flattered the trio of Ken Doherty, Fergal O'Brien, and Stephen Murphy.

Murphy and O'Brien were beaten in two of the opening three frames and it was left to Doherty to pull things round.

Results, page 44

## SHINTY

### Struggling holders face test in cup

BY COLIN MACDOUGALL

THE focus this weekend is on the first-round ties in the north and south of Scotland knockout championships for the Bank of Scotland MacTavish and Glasgow Celtic Society cups, but there may not be too many of the 12 ties played as heavy rain and strong winds have caused flooding over the past few days and are forecast to continue over the weekend.

Fort William, controversial winners of the MacTavish Cup, meet Lovat in what should be a relatively easy passage to the next round for another straightforward tie against Caberfeidh or Inverness.

Nothing, however, seems easy for the Lochaber side, which has seen its challenge for the Premier League slip away with three defeats in their past four league matches.

Although Ally Ferguson, their new manager, has an excellent squad of high-quality players on which to call, they have been strangely reticent on the field.

Lovat, even though playing in the first division, are not an easy side to contain and they have always proved difficult for Fort William to defeat. With these niggling thoughts at the back of their minds, it will be no surprise if the champions are held level at An Aird, or go out in the first round.

Inveraray, holders of the Celtic Society Cup – the sport's oldest trophy – for the past two years, have a bye into the second round, and Oban Camanachd, losing finalists for the past two years, face Glasgow University, who have not played so far this season.

The students should not present any problems for the Scottish champions, who have seen their fortunes flourish recently with a run of confidence-boosting league victories. None of the other ties in this competition look like producing close contests.

Storm takes hot seat

England to compete

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# Emotional torture price of being too reliant on Robins

**S**ix weeks into this bizarre assignment, and a few significant footie moments have now taken place, which indicate how life has been irrevocably transformed. Allow me to describe them.

One: On Wednesday night I dream of Alan Shearer, although curiously he is working in a furniture shop (quite happily), so perhaps it does not count.

Two: Finding myself among unfamiliar men on Tuesday, and listening vaguely to their excluding chat, my ears pick out "Le Tissier" and I feel jolly smug. (It is like suddenly — miraculously — being able to eavesdrop on people talking Portuguese).

Three: At a publishing party on a night of Coca-Cola Cup matches, I produce the famous BT paper from my pocket, nourish half-time scores to general amazement, and find myself instantly the most popular female author in the room.

Football is thus beginning to invade night life, social life and professional life and, if nothing else, it proves that pleasant American proverb: "weird happens". Not that I can quite get used to it.

Taking my friend, Kate, to her first football match at Bristol City last Saturday, I was in the unlikely (may, almost impossible) position of knowing more than somebody else, and this unearned superiority gave me a permanent sensation of vertigo. "Er, you see those little perspex bus-shelters?" I whispered during the warm-up, pointing confidentially. "That's where they keep the spares." Kate looked at me with admiration mixed with pity, which was nice.

Luckily, no awkward questions about corners were raised by my wide-eyed neophyte, because to be honest I am still a bit hazy about that technical stuff. I may know a little about Matthew Le Tissier, but corners are something else. The more arcane rules will sort of sleep in gradually. I expect, like damp up a wall, and in the meantime I do

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and  
Screaming

have authority in other areas. The ref points in the direction of play," I explained.

Meanwhile, on the pitch, those red, red Robins of Bristol City scored four goals in the first half against Notts County, which was pretty exciting. "You have to stand up now," I informed Kate, as the first surprising goal went in (Shaun Goater in the seventh minute), but she was on her feet already, yelling "Yes!" so I addressed my words to the hem of her coat.

There are two big footie predicaments for me at the moment: one is that I somehow neglected to support a team from earliest youth, and cannot now bring myself to be arbitrary with a pin and a blindfold. The other is that the personnel of football keep hopping about like fleas, transferring hither and thither without a thought for the person with wild hair trying to keep up.

Take Nick Barnby. It has taken me six weeks to establish who Nick Barnby is, and well, he isn't. These frantic swipes should be done all together at half-term, in my opinion. It is chaos otherwise.

Still, it adds to the mystery of football supporting that fans put up with all this unpredictable insanity. Bristol City look like a good, solid

team to support, for example, and coachloads of small, fanatical children packed our stand last Saturday, yelling "Off, off, off" in high (and rather sinister) voices, sounding like a mass denunciation during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. But how does a child decide to support Bristol City instead of Chelsea or Newcastle United? Isn't it dispiriting for those poor little chickens to know that if Goater turns out to be a top-class player (he scored a hat-trick on Saturday), inevitably he will be hijacked by a club with a bigger wallet?

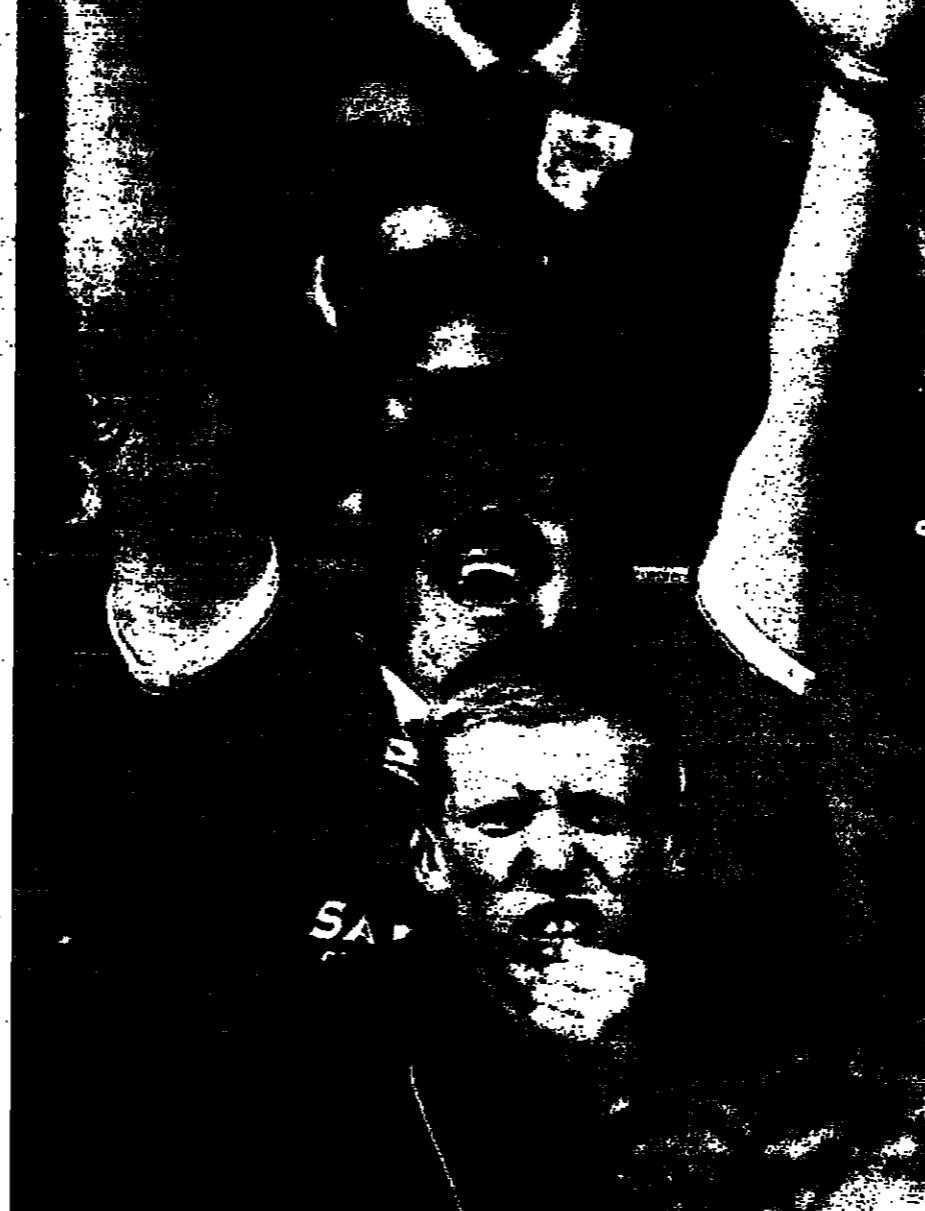
In theory, such continual sacrifice should make supporters into better people: they would sing bravely "We don't want to lose you but we think you ought to go", while educating their souls through pain.

But patently that does not happen, so perhaps the system just trains young men never to get emotionally attached.

Either way (I am in deep water here), the transfer system will certainly present problems for me, in selecting a team to support. I would be choosing the players, you see, and getting attached. Then, when they moved on, I would have to spend a fortune on shrinks exploring abandonment issues.

**B**ack at Ashton Gate, a splendid first half used up all the available steam, leaving the remainder a bit flat, but the Robins were rightly chipper with the result, which brought their goal total for the season to an almost reckless 29. Saturday was the sort of famous day when fans would storm the club shop to buy Bristol City duvet covers, I expect, or those durable Bristol City cotton curtains (with tie-backs).

The visiting Magpies were sparse and unhappy, but since they had brought with them banners saying "Murphy out", they evidently had their minds elsewhere. All in all, a satisfactory afternoon. When Kate did not understand a line decision, I found myself



Something to shout about: a Bristol City fan celebrates a goal against Notts County

barking officially, "Offside, he was offside" as though I had been doing it all my life.

So the world is changing and it is becoming the world according to football. When I scan television listings, I no longer pass blankly over the football matches, as though par-blind; instead, I grab a highlight pen.

Meanwhile, my perception

of British geography is turning crazy inside out, like a Hoover bag with all the grey, wobbly stuff on the outside. Wolverhampton is now a town attached to Molineux; Southampton borders The Dell, but luckily does not impinge.

And Bristol, which previously meant the Clifton Suspension Bridge, Johnny Morris chatting with a camel in Bristol Zoo, and Isambard Kingdom Brunel in a shiny top hat, now mainly exists as Ashton Gate — a secret stadium without signposts in a remote suburb unvisited by taxis.

We do not mention Bristol Rovers, you notice. Those Gasheads. Absurd, irrational loyalty just has to start somewhere.

RUGBY UNION: CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS ASKS LEADING CLUBS TO ALLOW PLAYERS TO HAVE THE ULTIMATE SAY

## North squad may be another source of division

By DAVID HANDS AND  
KARL JOHNSTON

WHILE there was little evident progress when the Rugby Football Union (RFU) met members of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) at Northampton on Wednesday, the loyalties of the clubs will be closely examined now that the first divisional squad of the season has been named.

The North's selectors have already accused Epruc of acting against the interests of their players and yesterday the divisional selectors named a 38-strong squad for their matches with Queensland, the New Zealand Barbarians, South Africa A and Argentina. Of that squad, 13 are from Sale and five from Newcastle, whose chairman, Sir John

Hall, has been a driving force behind Epruc in their dispute with the RFU. One ingredient of the dispute, of course, has been the clubs' desire to abandon divisional teams.

John Spencer, the chairman of selectors, said: "I would urge clubs who have control over these lads in terms of their contractual arrangements to think carefully about the situation and give the players the option to play if they wish to."

Peter Scrivener, the Wasps back-row forward, has been restored to the England training squad which will meet at Bisham Abbey next Wednesday, 24 hours after the announcement of the new captain to lead England against Italy at Twickenham on November 23.

The Heineken Cup has not

taken as another case of double standards. Jones was sent off in a match where two opponents were also dismissed, one being subsequently suspended for sixty days for stamping, the other for thirty days for punching.

The touring Australians have sent for reinforcements

after injuries to Jason Little and Michael Brial during the defeat of Scotland on Wednesday. Owen Finegan, the back-row forward capped five times during the summer, and the uncapped centre, Adam Magro, join the party.

Despite the selection of two new caps — Rob Henderson in

the centre and James Topping at left wing — the Ireland team is set to play Western Samoa under floodlights at Lansdowne Road next Tuesday week is otherwise surprisingly similar to the side which lost 23-15 to England at Twickenham last March. There are four changes, one of them enforced, as long-term injury has ruled Simon Geoghegan out of contention.

Only one alteration has been made in the pack, where the off-form Victor Costello has lost out at No 8 to Paddy Johns. The other changes bring Richard Wallace in at right wing instead of Geoghegan, Topping for Niall Woods on the outer wing, and Henderson for Maurice Field in the centre.

"We found ourselves in an impossible position," Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, said. "We have seven front-row forwards in our squad but only one was fit to play. We had no alternative. We were fortunate that it was the Harlequins we were due to play. Had it been a first division Welsh club we would, under their regulations, have had to forfeit the match."

The concern for safety is

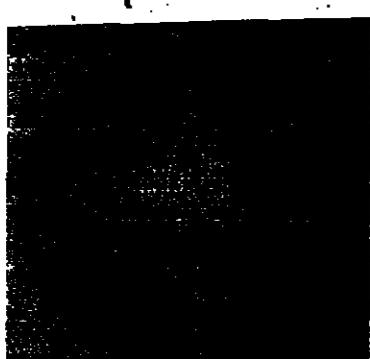
such that in the event of a front-row player being ordered off the field, the referee will confer with that team's captain to nominate another player to leave the field so that a substitute

Time for a truce, page 46

IRELAND v Western Samoa: S Mason (Richmond), R Wallace (Scarlets), R Henderson (London Irish), J Hall (Northampton), D Tovey (Worcester), D Humphreys (London Irish), N Hogan (Oxford University, captain); N Pappwell (Newcastle), A Carter (London Irish), W Williams (Cardiff), D Corke (Bristol), G Fletcher (London Irish), J Davision (London Irish), D McBride (Munster), J Johnson (Scarborough), J Parker (London), P Barnes (Bath), P Burke (Bristol), S Moloy (Moseley), M Galway (Shamrock), H Hurley (Moseley), M McDermott (Leicester). AUSTRALIA v Scotland-Edinburgh: J Hall, D Campese, D Herbert, P Howard,

B Tunu, D Knox, G Gregan, R Harry, M Foley, C Davies, D Manu, D Gatin, J Williams, D Wilson, D Fenton, D Groom, T Simpson (Leeds), N Best (Northampton), T Stimpson (Newcastle), A Adekoya (Bath), D Luger (Harlequins), J Fallon (Richmond), J Stedman (Scarborough), D McIlroy (Newcastle), A Blyth (Newcastle), W Carling (Harlequins), P de Glanville (Bath), N Greenstock (Wasps), W Green (Scarborough), P Rouse (Scarborough), D Hopley (Wasps), M Cast (Bath), P Challinor (Harlequins), P Grayson (Northampton), A King (Wasps), M Mephisto (Gloucester), K Bracken (Scarborough), M Dawson (Northampton), C Sheehey (Wasps).

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## Clubs finding new pitfalls at every turn

Gerald Davies highlights the dangers inherent in differing levels of fitness

**A**s the rugby season progresses, we are forced to observe many dilemmas which no one could have foreseen to the fullest extent when the game decided to part ways with its amateur ethos.

Professionalism, as it was then so simplistically interpreted, meant that money henceforward would be passed over the counter instead of under it. But who would have imagined the inflationary fees that have replaced the mythical, modest brown envelopes? What we are now seeing is not the birth pangs but the beginnings of a tortuous evolution. As each week passes, so another predicament unfolds.

"This is a real problem," Davies said. "Because of the physical confrontation that occurs in rugby, the risk of injury is great. A club could easily run short of forwards, particularly in the front row.

Earlier this week — and for the second time this season — Wasps found that their opponents did not want to play them. West Hartlepool were asked to forfeit their league points. Neath, in similar circumstances, withdrew earlier this season and in consequence found legal threats for monetary compensation issuing from London. This is not to cavil with the 'Wasps' way of doing things. Obviously, they felt hard done by.

But these are uncharted waters. The club who could be said to have started the ball rolling in this respect was Cardiff, who asked Harlequins to postpone their encounter in the Anglo-Welsh League.

In all three instances, the reason for the postponement was the same. Because of numerous injuries, these clubs lacked a full complement of front-row forwards. Wasps — Harlequins kept quiet and rearranged the fixture — may have felt miffed but, in the present circumstances, they surely have no recourse to compensation.

Their prospective opponents simply could not fulfil their obligations under the laws of the International Board. These stipulate that a team nominating 21 players, which includes substitutes, should have five players who can play in the front row.

"We found ourselves in an impossible position," Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, said. "We have seven front-row forwards in our squad but only one was fit to play. We had no alternative. We were fortunate that it was the Harlequins we were due to play. Had it been a first division Welsh club we would, under their regulations, have had to forfeit the match."

The concern for safety is such that in the event of a front-row player being ordered off the field, the referee will confer with that team's captain to nominate another player to leave the field so that a substitute

Further, a gap is growing between those players who are full-time professionals and able to devote their time to acquiring more strength and power and those who still retain the vestiges of the amateur and have no such time to spare. To pit the one kind of player against the other is inequitable. Since it is an unequal combat, this is highly dangerous.

Thus, to ask a player from,

say, a lower division to play

among the premier clubs is akin to a team of old boys

scrummaging down against their former school's sixth-formers, but without the safety valve of the genuine regard they would have for the well-being of their juniors.

Among the premier clubs, there would be no holding back. This fearful prospect should arouse serious concern among the game's authorities.

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FOOTBALL: NADAL DEAL RESURRECTED AS CHAMPIONS COUNT COST OF DEFEAT BY FENERBAHCE IN EUROPEAN CUP

# United lose more than a proud record

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

OH FOR the days when sport had only sporting values, and when the audacity of Fenerbahce, of Turkey, in taking away a record that had stood for 40 years, could have been greeted with: "Jolly good luck, they rode their luck, they defended mightily, and if they scored a bizarre winning goal, then isn't that the way all long records disappear?"

Si Bobby Charlton was in some isolation with those sentiments at Old Trafford on Wednesday night. The rest were in shock. When they awoke, however, there was talk of reactivating the £3 million bid to prise Miguel Nadal, the defender, from Barcelona; and in the City of London there was the inevitable knee-jerk — 19 knocked off United's valuation on the Stock Exchange yesterday.

Isn't it crazy, floating a football club on stocks and shares, allowing serious money to ride and fall with the vagaries of sporting competition? By lunchtime yesterday, Manchester United shares

denominator, the lie to these highly profitable clubs, who draw television fees as high as England's and who have similarly massive merchandising turnover to Manchester United's, comes with closer examination of the books. The Indians have decided that, since clubs can no longer demand transfer fees for players out of contract after the Bosman ruling, they have written down the value of the players they own.

So while England, almost by the day, is inflating the price of individuals, Italy has gone dramatically the other way. Somebody is right or wrong, some clubs, here or there, are heading for massive financial embarrassment, if not closure.

These thoughts, this accountancy, comes in the wake of an historic night that will only eliminate United if Alex Ferguson's team fail to rescue themselves. To do that, they would probably have to defeat Juventus at home on November 20, and win away at Rapid Vienna on December 4.

Despite the rampant form of Juventus, there are possible machinations that might persuade the European Cup holders to be less than fully committed in Manchester. The holders would dearly like to avoid Milan in the next round; Milan are in second place in group D and, therefore, on course to meet Juventus.

At the moment, many Italians could not care less. When Milan beat Gothenburg 4-2 on Wednesday less than 30,000 — less than half capacity — were attracted to the San Siro. Juventus drew 35,000 in Turin; FC Porto, of Portugal, had a mere 15,000... how they would all crave to be Manchester United, whose 55,000-seat stadium seems to fill up no matter what form the team is in or what the opposition.

Yet, on Wednesday, tedious and tepid as the match against the Turkish champions was, the crowd fell strangely silent. It is as if no one at Old Trafford knows how to take defeat, or these "little blips" as Ferguson calls them. As the match came to its unnatural conclusion, Eric Cantona, the inspiration for the past three seasons, attempted a forlorn long shot. He was woefully off



Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, is left prostrate and dejected by Fenerbahce's winning goal at Old Trafford

target, he ignored six of his team-mates ahead of him in the Fenerbahce penalty area. He seemed to be drifting off, like the flight of his shot, into no man's land.

Cantona is perturbed about his form, and he should be. In the commercial world, he earns far too much to suffer long bouts of mere sporting mortality. "A genius is fine when he's on form," the late Joe Mercer, from nearby Maine Road, used to say, "but when he goes off, he can contaminate all around him."

The time has not arrived yet, but maybe one day Ferguson, entering his eleventh year in charge at Old Trafford, will have to contemplate telling his leader: "Thank you Eric and goodbye." Painful? Yes, but the South African Springbok has just told Francois Pienaar, the catalyst of their rugby renaissance, that, at 29,

he is not part of the vision of the near future.

The future for Manchester United is under review. It is hard to believe that Jordi Cruyff and Karel Poborsky measure up to the wings of United's past, or that they can reliably supply the ammunition to propel the team into the quarter-finals. If Giggs returns, maybe there is hope, but there has to be an immediate reappraisal of Ferguson's priorities, of the signals he is sending out to the team.

Of course, Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, is so naive, believing that the game is all about scoring more goals than the opponent. Ferencvaros, the Hungarian side that Newcastle beat, are not Fenerbahce and the Uefa Cup is a joyride compared to the Champions' League. But for the moment, the spirits are high in the camp, and Ferguson is playing catch-up.

... for the United way has always been to go flat out in every competition. They need the Premiership to try to qualify for the Champions' League next season.

Meanwhile, who is laughing now? Manchester United's surrender came in a fashion that was nowhere near Ferguson's instincts to go for the jugular, while Newcastle United, cavaliers all, won their European encounter on Tuesday by four clear goals.

He, above all, seeks to emulate Sir Matt Busby, and that means not merely scraping through into the next round of Europe, but winning the thing. This year, from this pool of talent, it is unlikely. Therefore, Ferguson will have to address seriously the pool of talent that has conceded 11 goals in two successive FA Carling Premiership matches

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## CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE

Group A

Juventus 4 P W D L F A Pts

Ajax 4 3 0 1 7 10 10

Atletico Madrid 4 3 0 1 6 9 9

Rangers 4 0 0 4 2 10 0

RESULTS: Atletico 0; Ajax 1; Grasshopper

Zurich v Rangers; Rangers 1; Atletico 2;

Atletico 0; Juventus 1; Grasshopper Zurich 0; Grasshopper Zurich 3; Atletico 2

RESULTS: Juventus 1; Manchester United 0; Rapid Vienna 1; Fenerbahce 1; Juventus 0; Juventus 2; Rapid Vienna 0; Manchester United 0; Fenerbahce 0; Rangers 1; Atletico 1; Rapid Vienna 0; Grasshopper Zurich; Atletico 0; Atletico 1; Rapid Vienna 0; Fenerbahce 0; Juventus 0; Manchester United 0; Juventus 0; Fenerbahce 0

MATCHES TO COME: Nov 20: Rangers v Grasshopper Zurich; Atletico v Atletico; Dec 4: Grasshopper Zurich v Atletico; Zurich v Atletico; Dec 4: Rapid Vienna v Manchester United; Juventus v Fenerbahce

Group B

FC Porto 4 P W D L F A Pts

Borussia Dortmund 4 3 0 1 7 10 10

Dynamo Dresden 4 1 0 3 1 10 9

Stoos Bucharest 4 1 0 3 1 10 9

RESULTS: Atletico Madrid 2; Rapid Vienna 0; Manchester United 2; Fenerbahce 0; Juventus 0; Juventus 2; Rapid Vienna 0; Manchester United 0; Fenerbahce 0; Rangers 1; Atletico 1; Rapid Vienna 0; Fenerbahce 0

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RESULTS: AC Milan 2; FC Porto 3; FC Gothenburg 2; Rosenborg 3; FC Porto 2; FC Porto 1; AC Milan 4; FC Gothenburg 2; AC Milan 1; Rosenborg 0; FC Porto 1; AC Milan 4; FC Gothenburg 2; AC Milan 2; Rosenborg 2; FC Porto 0

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RESULTS: AC Milan 2; FC Porto 3; FC Gothenburg 2; Rosenborg 3; FC Porto 2; FC Porto 1; AC Milan 4; FC Gothenburg 2; AC Milan 1; Rosenborg 0; FC Porto 1; AC Milan 4; FC Gothenburg 2; AC Milan 2; Rosenborg 2; FC Porto 0

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# Never mind the duff title, feel the quality

**C**oming from the writer who gave us *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat*, the second-best title ever to have graced the non-fiction book lists, a series called *The Mind Traveller* (BBC2) smacks of a lack of imagination. But maybe that is not Oliver Sacks's fault. The title was probably dreamt up by a highly-powered suit at the BBC: "hmm... it's about the mind and he travels a lot... Got it, we'll call it *The Mind Traveller*. Round at Television Centre he is known as *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Creative Thought*.

So, duff title but, on the evidence of last night's first instalment, fair from duff contents. This is not a series to be consigned to the bookshelves after taking a month to get through chapter one. Sacks is as gentle and humane a guide to neurological disease as you could hope to come across and has a compelling way with words. "I

really have a sense of nostalgia," he murmured, recalling happy days in the neuropathology lab, his fingers gently caressing a dissected brain: "What a very beautiful object."

For his first essay in neurobiology, Sacks travelled to the Pacific Island of Guam to study lytic, a disease so nasty they named it twice. It's a bit like Parkinson's, a bit like motor-neurone disease and has just a hint of Alzheimer's. It is absolutely no fun at all.

On arrival, Sacks paused, apparently just long enough to establish his credentials as a Renaissance man. While some go for brown paper packages tied up in string, Sacks's favourite thing is the cycad, a palm-like tree that escaped from Jurassic Park 200 million years ago. Initially this love affair with the cycad smacked of affection, an excuse to describe the trip to Guam as the chance to

indulge his two great passions, neurology and botany. But actually it was a clue. You see, it might just be the cycads, packed as they are with dinosaur-busting poison, that will do it.

Sacks's account of this unexplained and incurable disease was absorbing, but it was also unsettling. The patients we met were seriously, and in two cases terminally, ill. If they had been covered in tumours, wracked with pain, coughing up blood, the cameras would not have been there. But conveniently for television, lytic and botany is not like that.

One of the principal symptoms is that the sufferer retreats from the outside world, entering a serene trance-like state. It doesn't look like dying at all. "It is not easy at first to see terrible disease," Sacks noted. The problem was, in this case, it was. So easy, I forgot to

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

worry about whether we should be there at all.

Sacks was also happy to address the taboo of such conditions being considered funny. "Something happens that is abnormal," he observed, as he examined a man who as well as lytic and botany also had a spot of alien hand syndrome, "but it's sort of funny as well." Tonight's homework? Discuss "sort of".

Last night's homework involved checking that *The Legacy of Reginald Perrin* (BBC1) reached its predictable conclusion. It did — the bloodless revolution of senior citizens and the occupationally rejected failed and its aims were judged far too sensible to pass "the totally and utterly absurd" stipulation in Reggie Perrin's will. Result? Bit of a cock-up on the collecting one million pounds each front.

"So this is goodbye?" said Jimmy Geoffrey Palmer, who as well as being unlucky in revolution was also unlucky in love. Ms Hackshaw (Patricia Hodge) had declined his proposal of marriage. "No merely *au revoir* — I look forward to seeing you when you have come up with something a great deal more absurd." And so it was that the door was held open for a sequel to the sequel?

Would that be a good thing? Probably not. For all I have enjoyed the performances of Palm-

er and Hodge, together with that of Pauline Yates as Elizabeth, Jimmy's sister and Reggie's widow, the series has still had that feeling of a party without its principal guest. Leonard Rossiter brought an element of glorious danger to everything he did and it is precisely that quality this well-intentioned follow-up lacked. Still, it was nice to hear Ronnie Hazlehurst's wonderful theme tune again. Super.

"The earthquake is important because it allows the police department to occupy a seismically-damaged but otherwise glamorous rotunda and Johnson to rent an otherwise unaffordable penthouse. He also has two beautiful former wives (one English, one American), an incipiently beautiful teenage daughter and a partner who looks just like Denis out of

*The Rockford Files*.

Johnson, who takes a credit as executive producer, has gone back to the cop show as star vehicle — which means he gets the best lines, the best jokes, the best car and the best... magic tricks. Kojak had his lollipops as a gimmick, Bridges had his tricks — although in last night's case of the missing computer chips it was not so much sleight of hand as sleight of handcuff. It's old-fashioned, lightweight (not often do you see the baddie get hit with a lobster) and surprisingly enjoyable.

apart  
ether

WORLD SERVICE

CLASSIC FM

VODKA RADIO

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (2037)
- 7.00 BREAKFAST NEWS (Ceefax) (50842)
- 8.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (Ceefax) (563622)
- 9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (s) (183610) 9.45 KILROY (s) (828552) 10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (s) (31474)
- 11.00 NEWS AND WEATHER (218517)
- 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (s) (470553) 11.45 MILLIE'S PEOPLE (Barry Conley (s) (623288))
- 12.00 NEWS AND WEATHER (4449517)
- 12.05 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES (n) (215002) 12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (5106710)
- 1.00 NEWS AND WEATHER (20401)
- 1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (14708246)
- 1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Ceefax) (s) (24619246)
- 2.00 CALL MY BUDDY (s) (7285)
- 2.30 PETER SEABROOK'S GARDENING WEEK (s) (10)
- 3.00 INCOGNITO (s) (6772)
- 3.30 THE ANIMALS OF FARTHING WOOD (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5468617) 3.35 DEAR MR BARKER (s) (3056517) 4.10 THE REAL ADVENTURES OF JONNY QUEST (Ceefax) (s) (5108994) 4.35 GRANGE HILL (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1347791) 5.00 NEWSROUND (Ceefax) (s) (6924201) 5.10 BLUE PETER (Ceefax) (s) (291401)
- 5.25 NEIGHBOURS (r) (Ceefax) (s) (400197)
- 6.00 NEWS AND WEATHER (Ceefax) (9)
- 6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (91)
- 7.00 MUPPETS TONIGHT! Tony Bennett guests and sings a duet with Kermit (Ceefax) (s) (74642)
- 7.25 TOP OF THE POPS (Ceefax) (s) (942559)
- 7.30 THIS IS YOUR LIFE Presented by Michael Aspel (Ceefax) (s) (7401)
- 8.30 999 LIFESAVERS: Bonfires Special Michael Bark and Juliette Lewis present a special programme on the dangers of Bonfire Night and how to avoid them (Ceefax) (s) (6536)
- 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS (Ceefax) (97975)
- 9.30 BECK Second of two: The King's Cross private detective continues her search for the identity of a man suffering from amnesia. With Amanda Redman. Last in series (Ceefax) (s) (99604)
- 10.20 FILM: *The Terminator* (1984) All-action science-fiction film about a cyborg sent to Earth from the future. His mission is to kill the woman who will become the mother of a future rebel leader. Arnold Schwarzenegger plays the futuristic killing machine and Linda Hamilton his target. Directed by James Cameron (Ceefax) (592826) WALES: *SATELLITE CITY* 10.50 FILM: *The Terminator* 12.35pm-2.20 FILM: *Ghost Story*

- 2.30 FILM: DR TERROR PRESENTS: *Ghost Story* (1981) Four ageing New-Englanders gather for an annual meeting to tell ghost stories, but they inadvertently arouse a vengeful ghost. Starring Fred Astaire, in his last role, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., John Houseman and Melvyn Douglas. Directed by John Irvin (830244)
- 1.00-1.55 WEATHER (189598)
- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a telephone handset. The Video PlusCode for the programme you want to record. VideoPlus+™, PlusCode™ and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: THE STATISTICIAN STRIKES BACK (2089197) 6.25 THE WORLD'S BEST ATHLETE (2089604) 6.50 REFINING THE VIEW (9655772) 7.15 SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (6727062) 7.30 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (4402739) 7.55 SMART (923333) 8.20 THE GREEDASAURUS (r) (GANG (837449) 8.25 SPIDER (5235159) 8.35 THE RECORD (5263852) 9.00 FRENCH EXPERIENCE (6643913) 9.15 THE BUSINESS STUDIES COLLECTION (723889) 9.45 WATCH (4047688) 10.00 PLAYDAYS (11265) 10.30 WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY? (5265994) 10.45 REVISTA (8251449) 11.00 LOOK AND READ (5776888) 11.20 SHORT CIRCUIT (7450352) 11.40 ENGLISH TIME: THE ANCIENT MARINER (5647639) 12.00 ENGLISH FILE: POETRY (5647639) 14.00 WORKING LUNCH (41430) 1.00 MI SCENE (S1371) 1.30 TECHNOLOGY STARTERS (s) (1472448) 1.30 GREENS AND PICTURES (s) (14718823) 2.00 GREEDASAURUS (r) (46028536) 2.05 SPIDER (r) (s) (46027807)
- 2.10 SPORT: ON FRIDAY Rugby Union: Highlights of Scotland v Australia, and Goff: The Champions Challenge Shoot-out from Wentworth (s) (409772)
- 3.05 NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (5276523)
- 4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (s) (84) 4.30 READY, STEADY, COOK (s) (88) 5.00 ESTHER (s) (6159) 5.30 GOING, GONE (s) (9)
- 6.00 SLIDERS (s) (369888)
- 6.40 ELECTRIC CIRCUS (s) (439420)
- 6.55 ROCKY STAR (b/w) (s) (204622)
- 7.00 RANNOCH THE RED DEER (Teletext) (s) (171352)



Ewan McGregor and Chance (7.45pm)

- 7.45 ONE MAN AND HIS DOG (Teletext) (s) (118517)
- 8.30 THE ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN (Ceefax) (s) (4178)
- 9.00 SHOOTING STARS Celebrity quiz show with guest panellists — Darcus Howe, Gabriele, Rose-Marie and Richard Whitley (Ceefax) (s) (7517)
- 9.30 ALL RISE FOR JULIAN CLARY Peter Stringfellow finds himself in the dock (Ceefax) (s) (34994)
- 10.00 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU (85517)
- 10.30 NEWSNIGHT (Ceefax) (574826)
- 11.15 THE A FORCE Featuring the best in black entertainment (821517)
- 1.20pm-2.45 FILM: *Titan* starring Rasmann Quadriago and Ina Case. After an absence of two years, Sags returns to his village to find that his finances have become his father's second wife. Directed by Idiross Quadriago. So far it is closer to soap opera, while offering a disenchanted view of the medical profession.

Peter Waymark

## CHOICE

### One Man and His Dog BBC2, 7.45pm

The dreariness of wet days in Shropshire puts paid to any notion of the television sheepdog as presenting a rural idyll to townies. Even the sheep look fed up. But Robin Page is a presenter who can find cheerfulness in the most unpromising circumstances and rain or not this is a tremendous day's trampling. In any case once the game is shot in this low-key, almost non-tech, contest, which has been running longer than *EastEnders* and will probably outlive it, the weather is easy to forget. The gentleness of competitive formulas is completely absorbing, especially when the sheep prove cussed or break ranks. Page's commenting colleague, Gus Dermody, is a voice of quiet authority though he is prone to making rash predictions. As so it is today, as Dermody's no-hoper wins by a cricket score.

### 999 Lifesavers: Bonfire Special BBC2, 8.30pm

The *Lifesavers* series can always be criticised for making entertainment out of misfortunes and can always retort by pointing to its campaigns about safety and first-aid. Last year's Guy Fawkes special, highlighting the dangers of bonfires and fireworks, hit the balance particularly well and as November 5 again approaches it is repeated in an updated version. Regular host Michael Buerk and Juliet Morris present the usual mix of horror story and practical advice. It is not a good idea to climb on to a bonfire with a can of petrol but Terry Thatcher did so and was engulfed in flames. Luckily he remembered his first aid and by rolling over and over on the ground was able to smother the flames. David Brooks, aged 15, broke a basic rule by putting fireworks in his pocket. They ignited and he received 15 per cent burns, from which he happily recovered.

### The English Country Garden BBC2, 8.30pm

Rather than the title it actually uses, which suggests a systematic study of the subject, this series should be called the Rosemary Verey Show. The programmes are as arbitrary as she decides to make them, pottering around her own garden in Gloucestershire and hobnobbing with her wealthy friends. Lord and Lady Tollerache, owners of a moated Tudor mansion in Suffolk called Helmingham Hall play host to Verey this week. To her, of course, they are on first name terms. Like most of the gardens featured in the series, Helmingham seems to go on for miles. An incidental revelation is that Verey dislikes roses, because they flower for too short a time, have ugly legs and are prone to nasty diseases. This means that she does not have a rose garden of her own, though she can still admire other people's.

### Staying Alive BBC2, 9.00pm

Yet another hospital drama, you may groan, but Neil McKay's six-parter is more about the staff than the patients and lives of duty tend to overshadow what happens on the wards. The focus is on five student nurses, attached to a hospital in south London. Not all the trainees are young and callow. Cassie (Jenny Bolt) has a teenage daughter. She is also on the run from her policeman husband (Sam Blowers of *London's Burning*) who knocks her about. Michaela (Susannah Wise) is even more unhappy. Hardly have the credits rolled than she is trying to kill herself. Talk about getting a show to an explosive start. *Staying Alive* fits itself as a thriller, but it is not a dangerous future episode. So far it is closer to soap opera, while offering a disenchanted view of the medical profession.

Jenny Bolt and Sam Blowers (9.00pm)

### SKY MOVIES GOLD

#### Along The Corridor Brothers (1941)

7.00pm

FBI (1942)

7.30pm

Crime (1942)

8.00pm

Death (1942)

8.30pm

Gaslight (1944)

8.30pm

**CRICKET 41**

Smith retires from the front line at Lord's

# SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1 1996

England coach has more than Georgia on his mind as he ponders squad

## Hoddle facing dilemma over Gascoigne

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

**SHOULD** he or shouldn't he? Will he or won't he? English football's great debate and Glenn Hoddle's great dilemma, over the selection or not of Paul Gascoigne for the World Cup qualifying match against Georgia next Saturday, will be resolved today.

Hoddle, the England coach, announces his squad for the group two game in Tbilisi against a backcloth of discontent and moral righteousness. Everybody, it appears, has an opinion on whether Gascoigne should play; many, it appears, would rather he stayed at home.

Yet again, it is not purely the Rangers midfield player's footballing ability that is being questioned, though his indifferent recent form further complicates the debate. It is not a case of judging him solely on his state of physical readiness for what will undoubtedly prove an awkward, possibly intimidating, journey into the former Soviet Union state.

What has caused such indignation in high places is that, three weeks ago, Gascoigne allegedly struck his wife, Sheryl. Photographs of her apparently bruised face were given widespread coverage in the national media, and, only a few days later, Gascoigne again attracted unflattering headlines during Rangers' European Cup Champions' League game against Ajax in Amsterdam.

**Pallister ruled out**

**MANCHESTER** United's grim week got worse yesterday when Gary Pallister had an operation on the knee injury which has been troubling him since the match at Derby County in early September (Peter Ball writes). He will be out for five weeks.

"We could have tried to patch him up and keep him going for the game against Juventus," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday, "but there was always the risk that he would break

down. Instead we hope we'll have him back for the game in Vienna on December 4."

That game, United's last in the Champions' League, could prove decisive for United's hopes of becoming the first English club to reach the quarter-finals of the European Cup for 11 years. Pallister has been noticeably struggling with the injury in recent weeks, and he was taken off during United's 6-3 defeat by Southampton at The Dell a week ago.

Sadly, in a PC world, those days have long gone.

has previously stressed the importance of discipline among his players, will have the final say. "A decision will be made only after I have spoken to Glenn," Wiseman said. He gave no indication of his personal stance.

Hoddle has kept his own counsel, too. Even after the squad is revealed today, it is unlikely that he will go too deeply into his reasoning behind Gascoigne's inclusion or omission. He will skilfully steer the conversation on to less controversial areas: a more positive agenda, and discuss the importance of the Georgia game in England's quest to reach the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Hidden beneath all the moralising, almost obscured yet intricately and ironically linked to Hoddle's thinking on Gascoigne, is the likelihood that Tony Adams, the Arsenal defender, and Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, will return to the England fold.

In the absence of Gary Pallister and Alan Shearer, who are ruled out by knee injuries, Adams and Wright can expect the call. Yet is not Adams a recently self-confessed alcoholic, who has served time in jail for drink-driving offences? And is not Wright one of the sport's less endearing characters, who faces an FA dispute charge for making derogatory personal remarks about David Pleat, the Sheffield Wednesday manager?

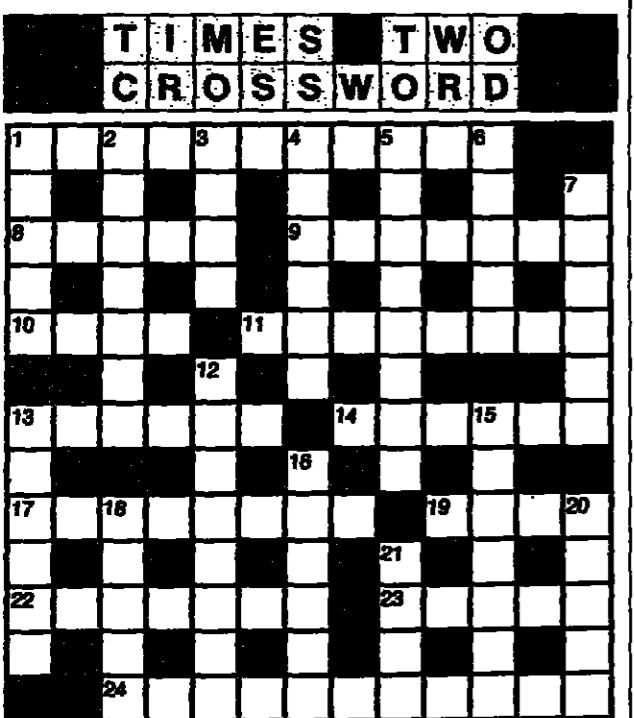
And what of Paul Merson, the Arsenal midfield player, who will surely retain his place in the squad? His past misfortunes involving drink, drugs and gambling have been well chronicled.

Hoddle, when making his England selections, should not have to take into consideration such off-the-field exploits. He should not have to juggle political footballs or have to differentiate between alleged wife-beating, various addictions and other behavioural problems.

Sadly, in a PC world, those days have long gone.



The question of Gascoigne's inclusion has been the focus of Hoddle's attention



No 928

- ACROSS**  
1 Explode with rage (4,4,3)  
8 Leans over; parts of feet (5)  
9 Make up, create (7)  
10 Sheltered retreat (4)  
11 Indulged; given undue help (5-3)  
13 Conventional action (6)  
14 Poor person (6)  
15 Melted (6)  
19 Rich, upper-class man (*stang*) (4)  
22 Mozart Symphony 35 (7)  
23 Unconsciated (5)  
24 Rabies (11)
- DOWN**  
1 Brendan —, Ir. playwright (5)  
2 Burdensome (7)  
3 E Eng. river, sounds like *slime* (4)  
4 Get safely away (6)  
5 Of this world (not the next) (8)  
6 Demonstration (5)  
7 Translate, present (6)  
8 Safely wrapped, sheltered (6)  
13 Captured (6)  
15 Traditional saying (7)  
16 Unconventional person (6)  
18 US non-self-incrimination amendment (5)  
20 Islamic decree (5)  
21 Ark builder (4)

The solution to 927 will be published Wednesday, November 6

**LITTLE IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS**. PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS (REST OF THE WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM). SEND SAE FOR FURTHER DETAILS. STERLING/DOLLAR CIGARETTES ONLY (£1-£5.50 EACH). 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